

President warns US troops they may face 'personal sacrifice' as Iraq rounds up more hostages

Angry Bush takes a step closer to war

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ANDREW MCEWEN IN LONDON

PRESIDENT Bush took the United States a step closer to hostilities yesterday by accusing Iraq of holding Americans hostage and warning that sacrifices would be needed to defend freedom.

He condemned the use of foreigners as "pawns" in an angry speech and said it was "an offence against all norms of international behaviour".

As more Americans and British citizens were rounded up, the president said Baghdad was holding US citizens hostage and would be responsible for their safety. The British government continued to avoid the word hostage, but announced that a further 82 nationals had been taken away.

British diplomats have established that 48 of them are being held in two civilian buildings, but the whereabouts of the others is unknown. Twenty-seven French people have been rounded up, including a girl aged four, travelling without her parents. Iraq has said that it will use the foreigners as a human shield against an attack, holding them in accommodation attached to factories and other strategic buildings. At least 35 of the 3,000 Americans in Kuwait and Iraq are understood to have been moved to munitions and chemicals plants.

Baghdad implicitly threatened the death penalty against people sheltering foreigners. Baghdad radio said: "Hosting a foreigner in an Iraqi place of residence is considered a

flagrant violation of the law, for which the severest punishment will be given."

However, a member of the Kuwaiti cabinet, who requested anonymity, said he believed most Kuwaitis would be glad to hide Britons and other foreigners. "In the Arab world, if you are my guest we take care of you. The Kuwait people are very concerned

their staff would be regarded as ordinary foreign nationals.

However, Britain has told Michael Weston, its ambassador in Kuwait, that he and his staff should stay as long as they can. Poland also said it would refuse to close its embassy. About 13,000 Westerners and Japanese are among two million foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

Baghdad has continued to treat citizens of countries not involved in enforcing the UN Security Council's trade sanctions more favourably. Iraq said yesterday that it would allow Argentines to leave as a mark of gratitude for their government's decision not to send troops to the Gulf. About 700 Indonesians in Kuwait and an unknown number in Iraq were also to be freed.

Other non-Westerners continued to leave the two countries in large numbers, mostly via Jordan where more than 10,000 are arriving daily. Jordan said it was having trouble coping with the influx and had asked Iraq to reduce the flow.

The US State Department advised all Americans to defer non-essential travel to Jordan. It said it was allowing non-essential embassy staff to leave and suggested other Americans should consider following suit. The Foreign Office has not yet advised Britons against travelling to Jordan.

The United States and Britain were trying yesterday to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to a further UN Security Council resolution that would approve the use of force to maintain trade sanctions against Iraq. Moscow's position remained unclear, but Mr Bush thanked President Gorbachev for his condemnation of the invasion.

"He has shown, if anyone doubted it, that nations which joined to fight aggression in World War Two can work together to stop the aggressors of today."

Damascus Radio, which is seen as the voice of the Syrian government, condemned the Iraqi decision to take hostages and said it increased the risk of war in the Gulf. Syria, Egypt and Morocco have sent troops to help defend Saudi Arabia as part of an Arab force approved by the Arab League in Cairo ten days ago.



Desert camouflage: an American soldier returning to a vast tent at an undisclosed location in the Saudi Arabian desert as more troops dig in

Kuwait draws on assets

By OUR DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Bank of England has given the Kuwaiti government-in-exile permission to use income from the Kuwaiti Investment Office in Britain to finance its running costs, it was disclosed yesterday.

Britain froze Kuwait assets on August 3, the day after the Iraqi invasion, but the bank has authority to make exceptions. A member of the Kuwait cabinet, who requested anonymity, said the bank had agreed that the running costs were a legitimate use of the investment office's huge income.

Whitehall sources said the aim of freezing the funds was to prevent them falling into the wrong hands. The Kuwaiti government continues to be recognised internationally as the owner of the assets.

The bank's decision explains how Kuwait's foreign embassies have been able to remain open, administering costly welfare services to Kuwaitis stranded abroad. These include free air tickets and hotel expenses for Kuwaitis wanting to fly to Gulf countries, where free accommodation is available.

Standards in schools 'worst in the West'

By JOHN O'LEARY AND NIGEL HAWKES

STRONG criticism of British educational performance from a leading academic and former government adviser yesterday prompted fresh controversy over school standards.

Sir Claus Moser, warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and a former head of the Government Statistical Service, in an address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, called for a royal commission on education because neither government nor opposition were displaying the vision needed to arrest Britain's slide.

"Hundreds of thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation," he said. British education had declined and no longer matched Europe, Japan or, for higher education, the United States.

Britain was in danger of becoming among the least adequately educated of the advanced nations.

Sir Claus said: "I suspect that, at root, Britain - or perhaps I should say England - does not care as much about

education as other countries."

The 1990s needed to be Britain's decade for education.

Standards were especially poor in the sciences and there were serious deficiencies in primary schools. More resources were needed and salaries had to be raised.

Michael Fallon, under-secretary at the education department, defended the government's record and insisted that its reforms were beginning to produce results. He declined to answer specific criticisms made by Sir Claus, but said that the government was building on the most substantial programmes of reforms since 1944.

The publication meanwhile of new statistics showed record numbers of students entering higher education. The figures confirmed that the number of students in Britain topped one million for the first time in 1988.

Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, said applications for places this autumn were 6 per cent up on last year.

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QE2 sails to stricken oil rig

By KERRY GILL

A NORWEGIAN drilling rig with 49 people on board broke from its tow and had its helicopter deck broken off during gales and high seas in the Danish sector of the North Sea yesterday. A freak wave is thought to have hit the helideck, driving it into the sea.

None of the crew was injured, but the QE2, on passage to the Norwegian fjords, was diverted to the scene, about 200 miles east of Newcastle upon Tyne and 130 miles from Esbjerg, Denmark.

The Aberdeen coastguard said that the rig was on tow in rough seas in the Gorm field when it broke loose and began drifting in winds of up to 80mph. The crew were on the upper deck and all are safe. The rescue operation was co-ordinated by Danish coastguards.

Cunard said that the QE2 changed course in response to a distress call. The liner later left the area once the emergency services were stood down.

Indemnity withdrawn

South Africa has withdrawn temporary indemnity from arrest from the military leader of the African National Congress and two colleagues after allegations of ANC guerrilla infiltration and a communist conspiracy.

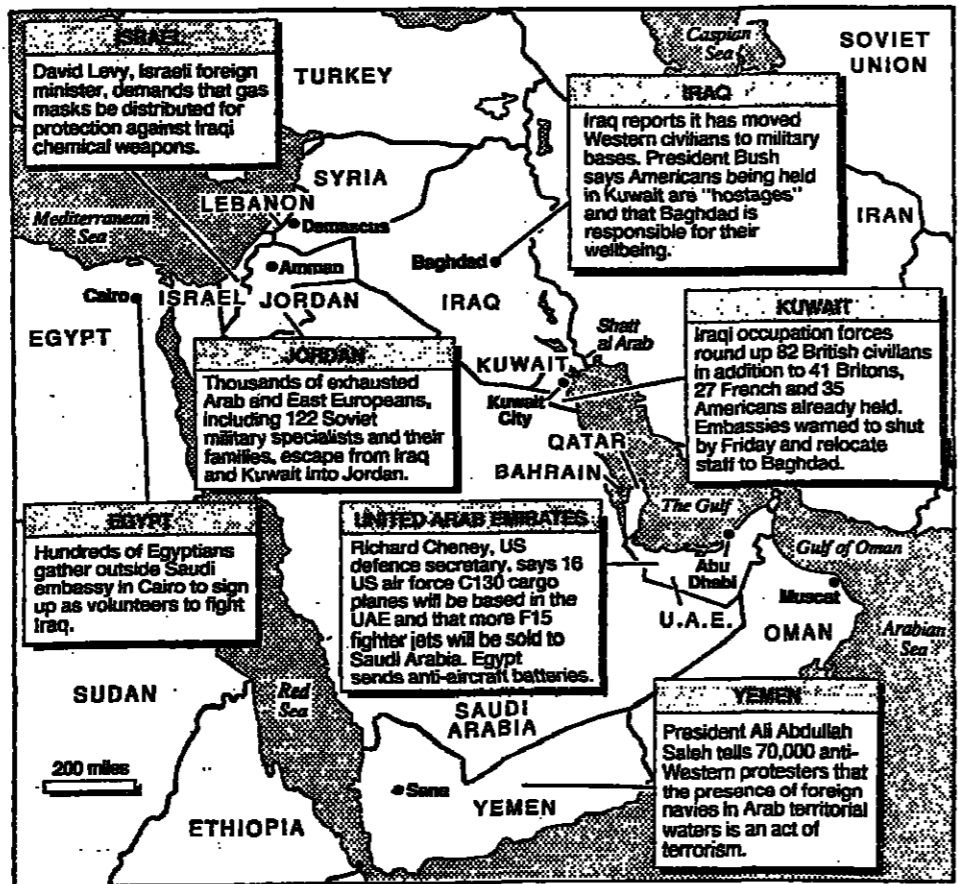
Chris Hani, the chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, Ronnie Kasrils, its former intelligence chief, and Sathyaendranath Maharaj were omitted from a government gazette extending indemnity until the end of the year.

The Engineering Council exam results for Chartered Engineers and Incorporated Engineers are published today.

Lending by banks and building societies grew by only £3.9 billion last month, the smallest monthly increase since August 1987.

Derbyshire have been reported to the Test and County Cricket Board for poor pitch preparation. They could lose 25 points, which would end their chances of winning the county championship.

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Siberian hijack ends in Karachi

From ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

ELEVEN Soviet prisoners who overpowered their guards on a domestic flight over Siberia and seized control of the aircraft surrendered peacefully to Pakistani commandos yesterday at Karachi airport after the personal intervention of the Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The two-day odyssey ended when the hijackers, armed with machine guns, pistols and homemade explosives, agreed to free their captives and give themselves up before seeking political asylum.

Soviet domestic flights have been plagued by a wave of hijacks this summer, mainly by dissatisfied youths seeking asylum in the West.

The latest incident began on Sunday when 15 prisoners on an Aeroflot flight disarmed their guards and took over the

plane, which was flying from Narynburg, Yakutia, 3,500 miles east of Moscow, to the city of Yakutsk.

They forced the plane to return to Narynburg, where their labour camp was located, officials said. Six prisoners decided to leave the plane, but two more joined the hijackers, the Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman, Yuri Arshenevsky, said.

The hijackers allowed the 41 women and children among the remaining 70 passengers to leave the airliner in Narynburg. They then flew west to Krasnoyarsk, where the authorities negotiated with them for two hours and allowed them to refuel.

The plane flew to Tashkent in Soviet Uzbekistan and the Yakutsk crew was replaced.

Carpet-buyers urged to pay cash before crash

By GILLIAN BOWITCH

LOWNDES Queensway customers were being encouraged to pay for their orders in cash in advance just one week before receivers were called into the furniture and carpets group, it emerged last night.

Liz Law, from Peterborough, who paid £741 for a carpet, was telephoned twice by her local Carpetland on August 8 and told that if she paid in full that day, 20 per cent would be deducted from an earlier quotation. Mrs Law said the shop accepted a £50 deposit on her Access card and she paid the balance by cheque the next day. She was given a delivery date of August 18. A week after she was telephoned by the shop, the receivers were called in.

advertisements in most of the daily tabloid newspapers on Tuesday, August 7, offering 20 per cent off all carpet orders at Carpetland and Queensway the next day. Nowhere in the advertisement did it say that customers had to pay in full. Mr and Mrs Ron Strutt, of Guildford, who had already ordered a £796 carpet, were told by their local Carpetland that they would receive 20 per cent off if they cut out the advertisement and paid for the carpet in full. They paid by cheque a week before the group went into receivership.

An insolvency expert at the accountancy firm Touche Ross said that the practice of encouraging people to pay in full by companies which were in financial difficulties was dubious, but did not appear to be illegal. Customers

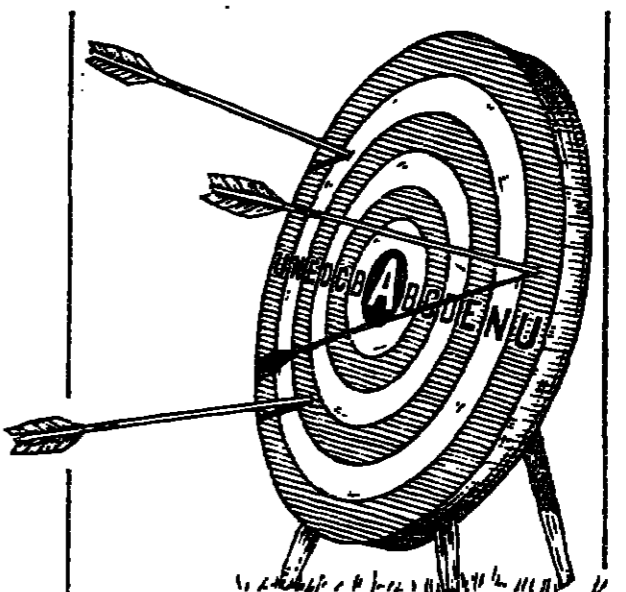
may still get back most of their money through a £15 million insurance policy put in place by Lowndes in January to cover customer deposits. There are fears, however, that after the costs of processing the insurance claims are met, the money left may not cover the deposits in full.

Yesterday Lowndes made 120 staff at its head office in Orpington, Kent, redundant. More of the 4,000 workforce are expected to lose their jobs.

More than 100 Lowndes employees, mostly regional managers, attended a five-hour meeting with Nigel Hamilton and Terry Carter, the receivers, yesterday. The employees were told that the company's 417 shops should be open tomorrow and were briefed on how to handle customers.



Mrs Law: offered discount by local Carpetland



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US faces dilemma over 'surgical strike' and plight of hostages

From MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BY ROUNDING up 3,000 Americans and threatening to use them as human shields, President Saddam Hussein risks precipitating the US strike his move was designed to forestall.

The Bush administration is aware of how past hostage problems paralysed the Carter presidency and sucked Ronald Reagan into the Iran-Contra "arms for hostages" debacle. The Bush presidency is determined that it will not founder on the same rocks.

Within Congress, there appears to be a firm resolve that American conduct in the Gulf confrontation should not be dictated by the plight of the hostages. Many independent experts, noting that President Saddam is using the hostages to manipulate US public opinion, are arguing that the administration should consider a swift military strike, despite the risk to the

trapped Americans, before they come to dominate the national consciousness.

"The longer the hostages are there, the more that the news surrounding them and the private sufferings of their families divert attention from the real issues in the crisis," said Adam Garfinkle, senior analyst and Middle East expert at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. "The tilt of the expert community is going to be towards doing something decisive soon rather than waiting."

The administration has refused to use the emotive term "hostages", lest it enhance their value to Iraq as bargaining chips, and has withheld the identities of those held to prevent their plight from acquiring too human a face.

However, the distressed families of those detained in Iraq and Kuwait are surfacing in the media, letting their fears and agonies pour out, urging negotiations, in some cases criticising Mr Bush for playing golf while their loved ones are

trapped, and undermining the national resolve to stand firm against the Iraqi dictator.

President Saddam is exploiting this to the full. On Sunday, he delivered a televised address to the families of those held in which he said that Washington could secure their release by withdrawing its forces.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House armed services committee, warned that concern for the hostages must not be allowed to influence decision-making. It had to be balanced by "not letting our policy be driven by the existence of hostages or be paralysed by it", he said. "We are in a world in which the use of military force anywhere in the world is likely to raise the issue of hostages. So we have got to learn to live with the problem. Hostages are a fact of life."

Lee Hamilton, the second most senior Democrat on the House foreign affairs committee, said the president had a responsibility to citizens held

against their will by another country. "That's a very high priority and it weighs heavily on a president and any leader in this government," he said. "But that's not the only interest involved here... we have an interest in the free flow of oil at reasonable prices in the Gulf."

Mr Aspin said this situation differed from previous hostage dilemmas in that the identity of the hostage-taker was clear. "You say to Saddam Hussein, 'You are responsible for the safety of these hostages and we are holding you responsible... We at least know the address of the person responsible, so if we need to send a message we know where to send it'."

Increasingly, experts are warning of the dangers of a protracted economic siege and calling for military action. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State, said on Sunday that the administration should consider "surgical and progressive destruction" of Iraq's military assets.

Avigdor Haselkorn, a Middle East scholar, said the rounding-up of hostages was an Iraqi ploy to gain time. "The more you wait, the less Bush will be backed by the world," Dr Garfinkle commented. "What are we waiting for? We've got the air power to inflict massive damage. Do we really think sitting out there in the desert is going to bring Saddam around? Forget it."

Mr Bush has deliberately proceeded with his Kennebunkport holiday to avoid comparisons with Mr Carter who became a captive of the White House during his hostage dilemma. He has played down the plight of the American detainees, describing them as recently as last Tuesday as "inconvenienced people who want to get out". President Saddam's actions over the weekend, say the experts, have rendered that approach untenable and demand an administration response commensurate with the transparent gravity of the situation.

LONDON

Thatcher likely to break her self-imposed silence

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister is expected to break her uncharacteristic self-imposed silence on the turmoil in the Gulf and make a public statement of her views. Her remarks, which are expected to cover the threat to about 4,500 Britons held in Kuwait and Iraq, could come today.

According to government sources, she is very concerned at their plight. She also wants Foreign Office consular officials in the area to be seen to be doing all they can to protect the interests of British nationals, which she believes they are. Mrs Thatcher, who returned on Sunday from a week's holiday in Cornwall, has made no public comment on President Saddam's aggression since her meetings with President Bush in the United States shortly after the invasion on August 2.

The prime minister, who has adopted a measured tone towards the confrontation in the belief that it is unlikely to be resolved swiftly, yesterday met her senior ministerial colleagues for nearly two hours at Downing Street. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said recall of Parliament was discussed, but no decisions were taken. Government sources confirmed the position was unchanged, but could alter if there was a "shooting war" in the region.

But Sir Rhodes Boyson, one of the few senior Tory MPs to have publicly demanded a recall, gave a warning that it would set a "terrible precedent" for the "sounding board of the nation" to be silenced when Western civilisation was facing its biggest threat in recent times.

The Downing Street meeting was also attended by Tom King, the defence secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, and Alan Clark, the minister of state for defence procurement, who as the prime minister's personal emissary has just returned from a tour of friendly Arab states in the Gulf.

On his first day back from holiday, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, discussed by

telephone the tensions in the region with Gerald Kaufman, his chief foreign affairs spokesman. The Labour leadership remains opposed to a recall of Parliament.

Leadership sources said Labour did not favour a recall at present because it could "create a drama out of a crisis" with so many British lives at stake. Bringing back MPs and peers would also raise expectations of action that could not be fulfilled. "We should not heighten the tension by taking the immense step of recalling Parliament," a senior insider said. However, Labour might take a different view if there was

some dramatic escalation of the confrontation or if the government took steps with which it disagreed strongly.

In another development, it was disclosed that members of the European Parliament are likely to become the first group of European politicians formally to debate the Gulf tensions.

Enrique Barón, the Spanish president of the European Parliament, has called an emergency meeting of its most senior grouping, the 35-strong political committee, for next Tuesday to hold discussions with members of the Brussels commission and the council of ministers. Edward Mo-

Millan-Scott, Tory MEP for York, a member of the committee, said it was necessary to beef up the political dimension of the Community's response to events in the Gulf. It was giving the impression of "sitting on its hands" and was moving at the pace of the slowest member.

The Italians, who currently hold the EC presidency, had been "apprehensive" about making moves beyond the agreement to enforce the trade embargo on Iraq.

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KUWAIT

Embassy refuge for Britons as more are rounded up

By MICHAEL KNIFE AND ANDREW MCEWEN

IRAQ has rounded up a further 82 Britons in Kuwait, in addition to 41 at the weekend, bringing the total to more than 120.

British diplomats have discovered that 48 of them are being held in two civilian buildings, but are unsure of the whereabouts of the others. Iraq has said they will be sent to factories and other strategic places for use as a human shield to deter attack.

Between 65 and 70 Britons in Iraq have taken refuge in the embassy in Baghdad. Others are not being encouraged to enter because of the risk that the Iraqi authorities might take some kind of action against the embassy. But there are thought to be 500 Britons in Iraq, and any who go to the embassy will not be turned away. The US embassy has also become a refuge for its citizens.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that Harold Walker, the British ambassador, was dealing with the situation as best as he could. Mr Hurd and Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, attended a special meeting at Downing Street chaired by Margaret Thatcher. He said the Iraqis were moving British citizens around and using them as shields.

"We have taken every opportunity over the weekend, in public and private, to point out to the Iraqis that this behaviour is illegal and repulsive," he said.

Britain and the US were trying yesterday to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to a Security Council resolution under article 42 of the UN Charter. This would authorise the use of force to prevent breaches of the security council's trade sanctions against Iraq. Moscow has said that it would countenance the use of force only if the security council passed such a resolution. But the resolution cannot be passed without Moscow's acquiescence as it has a veto. Its position remained somewhat ambiguous yesterday.

Apart from the security council, the problem has been tackled from other directions. Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, has sent his *chef de cabinet* to Baghdad.

William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, is to discuss the matter with officials of the International Red Cross in Geneva. Mr Hurd said it would also be raised today at meetings of the Western European Union and the European Community foreign ministers.

He would try to ensure that the solidarity of the European Community over the plight of the foreign nationals - which had been very good until now - would be maintained. In the light of the Iraqi deadline for the closure of foreign embassies in Kuwait by Friday, the twelve had some difficult decisions to take. Michael Weston, the ambassador, and his two diplomats have been told to stay as long as they can. "We will seek to make sure we have people in Kuwait able to keep in touch with our community there for as long as is physically possible."

Mr Hurd believed the Western European Union meeting would be a successful attempt to bring together under the cover of the WEU all the different contributions members had pledged. But military forces would stay under their national commands, there being no need for a joint command. Effective co-ordination of the WEU's efforts and

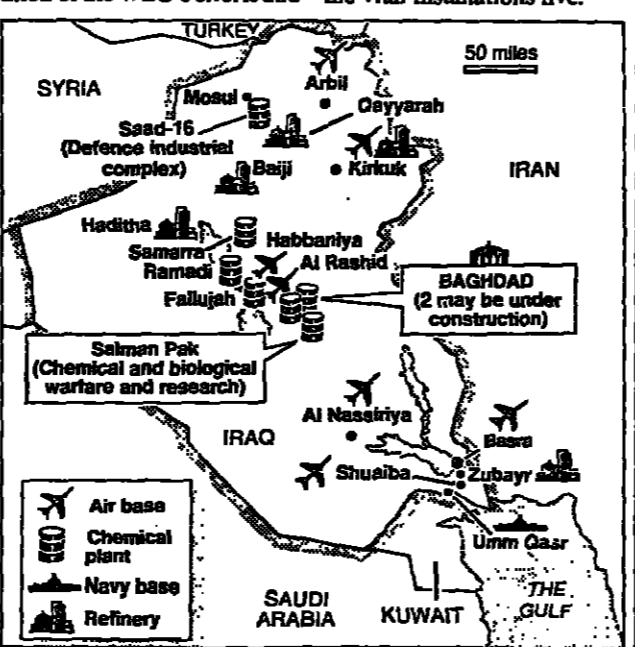
those of the US, Australia, Canada and others had to be worked out. Asked if Britain was opposed to a military solution, Mr Hurd made it clear that deterrence continued to be the US-British objective.

"I believe we lived through a very dangerous few days when there was a real prospect of an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia," he said. "I hope that has been deterred, but we cannot be sure when we are dealing with someone like Saddam Hussein."

"That was the reason why we moved so quickly and why, alongside the US, we have sent our aircraft up front. We may have passed that moment of immediate danger but that deterrent needs to remain in place and so do the forces needed to implement the security council embargo against Iraq."

© NICOSIA: Groups of Westerners have been lodged with Iraqi families at vital targets in Baghdad, according to an Arab journalist in close contact with Iraq (Michael Theodorou writes).

Westerners being used as a human shield were not kept separately under lock and key, but in heavily guarded compounds where Iraqis running the vital installations live.



Strategic installations in Iraq where President Saddam has threatened to place Western hostages



On home ground: An oil worker giving the thumbs-up sign on arrival in Moscow from Kuwait yesterday. He was among 134 Soviet workers' families flown out by Aeroflot

THE RETURNEES

Penniless escapers 'receive little financial sympathy'

By RAY CLANCY

BANKS and building societies are being unsympathetic towards Britons who have arrived home penniless after escaping from Kuwait and Iraq, it was claimed yesterday.

Robert Hayward, Conservative MP for Kingswood, Bristol, who started the Gulf Support Group help-line for the families of Britons trapped in the conflict area, said he was appalled by the treatment many people had received.

"There is evidence that banks and building societies are treating people as if they have just driven up in their car from their house in the suburbs, and not as hostages who have been imprisoned for two weeks, escaped across the desert, and arrived home penniless having left all their possessions behind," he said.

Mr Hayward said those who had made the daring trip were special cases and had to be treated as such. They needed more time than usual to deal with financial problems, and some had no idea when they would be able to start earning again or if they would be able to salvage anything.

"These people are facing

financial ruin. Many of them were on fixed contracts with hospitals or schools and have not received any wages since the Iraqis occupied Kuwait. They have gone through considerable trauma, yet when they try to sort out their financial problems they are treated unsympathetically."

Joanne Copley, whose sister Jane was on the British Airways flight which was trapped at the airport in Kuwait, said: "There is a misapprehension that Britons working and living in Kuwait earn large amounts of money and are very rich. This is just not the case. Some have arrived with just £10 in their pockets and many are nurses and teachers earning ordinary wages. It is a disgrace the way they are being treated when they arrive home."

Miss Copley, who also started a help-line, has now joined forces with Mr Hayward and they have details of about 2,000 people, half the number of Britons thought to be trapped in Kuwait and Iraq. Children are among those trapped, but the group does not believe there are a

large number. The help-line is keeping closely in touch with the department of social security, so that people with financial problems can get the advice they need.

It is not just escapers who are facing money problems, but wives whose Kuwaiti husbands are stuck in the country and who as a result have no income.

The families of those who are trapped have become increasingly anxious. "People are being surprisingly stoic. They are naturally getting more and more anxious, but the community spirit, with neighbours helping families who are worried and upset, is amazing," said Mr Hayward.

One woman telephoned the help-line in a very distressed state because her daughter, trapped in Kuwait, is due to give birth soon.

"She was very worried and wanted to know if the reports that babies could be denied food was true. We tried to reassure her as much as we could," said Mr Hayward.

© The Gulf Support Group can be contacted on 071 430 9920/9921/2506/2562.

UNITED NATIONS

Race to win approval for action by warships

From JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and the United States were pushing yesterday to convene the United Nations Security Council to give UN approval to naval action in the Gulf before American warships stop Iraqi tankers, diplomatic sources said.

The five permanent council members - Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States - met yesterday morning after a series of closed-door sessions over the weekend to draft the plan.

American officials indicated that the US Navy was waiting for UN action before stopping two tankers which ignored warning shots across their bows on Saturday.

A formal meeting of the council was hoped for late yesterday or today, diplomats said. "The Americans are running out of time," said one Western diplomat. "They have a ship to stop within 24 hours." Britain and the United States, reluctant to place their forces under UN command, appeared to be seeking a United Nations resolution along the lines of that which authorised Britain to stop tankers carrying oil to Rhodesia in 1966.

Diplomatic sources said the draft under consideration yesterday called in general terms on members of the United Nations to take action to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq. "It will not be a measure under article 42," said another Western diplomat. "It will be a recourse to chapter VII of the charter." Chapter VII is the section of the UN Charter that deals with "action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression."

France gave added impetus to the move to obtain a UN umbrella for naval action in the Gulf by changing its instructions to its warships in the area. Although the exact terms of the new orders were a military secret, diplomatic sources said that they were authorised to take "measures of constraint" to enforce the UN embargo.

Military sources said the new orders allowed French naval ships to stop suspicious cargo vessels and fire warning shots, but said presidential authorisation was needed before the navy could attack a suspect ship.

Moscow finds itself in the difficult position of having taken the lead in calling for a UN command for the navies in the Gulf, and now facing a resolution falling short of establishing a formal United Nations force to impose a UN-mandated blockade.

But it is the Chinese who have expressed the most opposition among the five powers. Ye Mengxia, the Chinese representative, said: "We are deeply disturbed by the mounting tension in the Gulf region, and it is our belief that military involvement by the big powers is not conducive to the settlement of the present crisis."

Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, remains optimistic about the chances of a peaceful settlement. "Not everything that is explosive actually blows up," he told reporters on Sunday in Chile on the second stage of his Latin American tour.

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Bush increasingly bunkered by the holiday that must go on

From SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

AS IRAQ and the United States move nearer towards outright combat, President Bush looks increasingly like a hostage to his loudly proclaimed holiday plans.

A self-avowed "work hard, play hard" kind of guy, Mr Bush left Washington 10 days ago for a three-week stay at his family estate on the coast of New England, confident that he could stay abreast of an international crisis in between rounds of golf and fishing trips.

For a while, everything looked fine. A smiling Mr Bush received telephone calls from his motorised golf buggy and chatted freely with reporters about the latest developments in the Gulf as he officially

unwound. That, however, was before President Saddam Hussein began rounding up foreigners, including 3,000 Americans.

Now the signs from Kennebunkport, Maine, are that the president's holiday is turning sour. Some of his advisers are wondering how long he can maintain the image of a caring leader from afar as American television news programmes juxtapose pictures of US troops battling 120°F temperatures in Saudi Arabia with footage of Mr Bush teeing off on Cape Arundel golf course.

More significantly, the mounting tension between Washington and Baghdad appears to be taking a toll on Mr Bush himself. In past days, he has grown uncharacteristically testy with his regular entourage of

journalists, snapping from the golf course on Sunday that he does not like "taking questions on serious matters on my vacation".

Only a week earlier, he helped reporters by calling from his cellular phone during a round of golf to find out for them whether reports of the shooting-down of an Iraqi aircraft in the Gulf were true.

Other tell-tale signs of his degenerating humour, according to Bush body-language and behaviour experts, include ever-frantic rounds of golf in blinding rain and a refusal to stop for his usual chat with the minister of his local church after a Sunday service. He ignored reporters and strode to his car.

But, as alarm spreads about the fate of Americans trapped in Kuwait, Mr Bush finds himself the

victim of his own efforts to exude calm. Some of his advisers may privately wish he would return to Washington to quell growing criticism that his holiday routine looks frivolous, but they know that this is unlikely to happen.

The White House made such a fuss about Mr Bush's cast-iron holiday plans that any about-turn could unwittingly signal a mood of panic within the administration. "What you don't want to do is appear to be held hostage in the White House to events," Mr Bush declared before he left the capital, anxious to contrast himself with former Democratic president Jimmy Carter, who hardly left Washington during the Iranian hostage crisis.

Mr Bush's press secretary, Mar-

lin Fitzwater, reiterated this line at the weekend as the president broke his holiday, for the second time in a week, to return briefly to Washington for dinner with his national security specialists. Yesterday, he forged ahead with a "business as usual" image by travelling to Baltimore to address a convention of retired servicemen. Later, he attended a political fund-raising event in Rhode Island before travelling back to Maine.

Publicly, White House staffers have sought to play down the image of Mr Bush at play as discomfiting only to the American media. As the military build-up continues, there are signs that other Americans, too, are growing impatient with Mr Bush's sang-froid despite their initial overwhelming

support for his handling of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Gradually, the names of the Americans held against their will in Kuwait and Baghdad have started to seep out as their relatives turn to the American media to make known their plight. Yesterday, *USA Today*, the country's largest-circulation newspaper, ran an emotional front-page interview with the wife of a Texas oil worker who is among the detained Americans.

President Bush himself risked fuelling concern about the fate of those held when he described them as "hostages" for the first time. In the view of many, however, nothing short of a full-scale emergency will bring Mr Bush permanently back to the White House before the end of his holiday on September 3.

ostages

الكويتية

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST



An F117A stealth jet fighter using its brake-parachute while landing at Langley air force base in Virginia yesterday. One of 22 flown from its home base in Nevada, it was due to fly on to the Middle East

BAGHDAD STRENGTH

US searching for past weaknesses in Iraq's defences

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

STUDYING the military options for dealing with the Iraqis, the Americans are reported to be in a resolute mood to teach President Saddam Hussein a lesson. But in preparing for war with Iraq, what lessons have already been learnt about Iraqi military capabilities? Is this one million-strong army as formidable as it sounds?

According to the latest intelligence assessment, there are 200,000 Iraqi troops and more than 1,000 tanks on the Saudi border. But they have adopted a position which became all too familiar during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Apart from the armoured thrust into Iran at the beginning of the war in 1980 and a second offensive towards the end when Iraqi forces advanced 450 miles across the Iranian border, Iraq spent most of the war waiting for the enemy to attack, sitting behind vast defensive structures. Even its initial assault ran out of steam after less than two weeks.

Today, following their rapid but relatively unopposed invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi forces have returned to their strategy of building big defences and parking their tanks and artillery behind them. In response to the dispatch of US forces to Saudi Arabia, Iraq's military occupation force in Kuwait has intensified construction of a strong defensive line of earth barriers and anti-aircraft batteries. The earthen barricades are around Kuwait City and in the desert southwest of the capital and also

around the international airport.

Don Kerr, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said: "Sitting behind vast defensive structures, waiting for an attack seems to suit their collective personality."

During the war with Iraq, Iran was outnumbered five to one in tanks, nine to one in heavy artillery and six to one in combat aircraft and was nearly defenceless in the face of Iraq's willingness to use chemical weapons. Iraq should have won, but its failure to achieve any significant gains in eight years should provide the American military planners with confidence that the Iraqi superiority in manpower and armour does not need to be the crucial factor in deciding what action to take.

However, the Iraqi military, and in particular the highly trained Republican Guards, learned during the latter stages of the war with Iran the art of manoeuvring at speed. The American assessment is that, if President Saddam decided to order his seven Republican Guard divisions in Kuwait to attack Saudi Arabia, they would be capable of moving quickly at short notice. They are apparently well stocked with equipment, spare parts, food and water. Their supplies are being brought down the main road from Basra.

But can they fight a sustained battle? The invasion of Kuwait took time to 12 hours. In the war with Iran, they never fought a sustained battle

for more than 12 days. As one US official has said: "If we engaged in a shooting war and made a concentrated attack, we can fight 24 hours a day."

Iraq's air force is regarded as third-rate. It has 17 fighter squadrons and two bomber squadrons, but it is claimed that most of its pilots have been poorly trained and the government has devoted few resources to maintaining the forces. The best pilots are said to be a group of about 50 who were trained by the French to fly the Mirage F1 fighters. But, as Mr Kerr pointed out, there were rumours during the Iran-Iraq war that the Iraqi Mirage jets were being flown by mercenary pilots.

"There are now suggestions that the Iraqis may have 10 Soviet Su24 Fencer aircraft, but if they are that new, how good will the Iraqi pilots be at operating them?" Mr Kerr said.

The American and British military are looking for any indications of poor morale among the Iraqi troops in Kuwait. It is recognised that they will have to operate with extended lines of communication, going back 150 to 200 miles. But, according to a senior British military source, their communication security is good. So, too, is their ability to conceal troops and armour, even in open ground. One concern for President Saddam will be the need to maintain stocks of ammunition and equipment.

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PLO SPLIT

Arafat struggles to find a diplomatic solution

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait may be disastrous economically, politically and strategically for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but most Palestinians believe that Yasser Arafat could only side with President Saddam Hussein against the United States.

While the PLO has not condoned the invasion, it has yet to condemn it. In the West this has been seen as a gross miscalculation by one of the Middle East's great survivors: he has backed a certain loser.

A rash peace plan in the early days of the crisis that proposed Iraq's troops could be brought out of Kuwait discredited not only later ones but also Mr Arafat's attempts to present himself as an impartial mediator.

Since then statements by PLO officials have been seen in the West as contradictory, evasive and ambiguous, designed to give Mr Arafat a chance to abandon the sinking ship and row to pro-Western shores. Most Palestinian commentators believe he will not abandon ship.

Mr Arafat was yesterday trying to find a diplomatic breakthrough that could end the problem and reverse the PLO's fortunes. His plan, in conjunction with North African leaders, calls for Arab forces to oversee an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and then to guarantee the security of neighbouring countries. The plan has led to a split in PLO ranks with some claiming that Mr Arafat's frantic shuttle diplomacy is embarrassing because war is inevitable.

Economically, the Palestinians stand to lose vast sums of aid from their Gulf patrons while Gulf-based Palestinians fear their jobs may be endangered or the transfer of their remittances banned. The total value of remittances sent to the occupied territories is

estimated at up to \$50 million (£26 million) a month.

Politically, the Gulf tension has split Arab ranks, sidelined the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and lost Mr Arafat his nurtured image of moderation in Western eyes.

Strategically, as most Palestinians see it, the US is determined to topple President Saddam, the first Arab leader who was willing to stand up to Israel. Israeli right-wingers may push even harder to turn Jordan into Palestine. Many Palestinians believe the US wanted a chance to smash Iraq's power base for Israel's sake, but if any officials were angered that President Saddam walked straight into the trap, none has expressed it.

Palestinian commentators argue that Mr Arafat could not stand against the tide of popular Palestinian support for Iraq while his leadership was already being challenged

by more radical elements inside and outside the PLO. Nor would he be willing to incur the wrath of the Iraqi leader. Key PLO institutions, including its military headquarters and 5,000 guerrillas, have been based in Baghdad since they were driven out of Lebanon by Israel's invasion in 1982.

Palestinian officials maintain their position on the dilemma has been misrepresented by the Western media: their support for Iraq does not mean they backed the Kuwait invasion.

The PLO's second-in-command, Abu Iyad, said the PLO was doing its best to find an Arab solution to an Arab problem. Palestinian analysts argue that the way Egypt and the PLO lined up after the emergency was a logical extension of what came before. Washington was to blame for pushing the organisation firmly into Iraq's camp.

IN A DUSTY tree-lined street yesterday, hundreds of Egyptians gathered outside the Saudi embassy in Cairo, a white three-storey building near the Nile. By noon, the numbers had swelled to about a thousand.

They were not there to support President Saddam Hussein or burn American and British flags, but to sign up as volunteers to fight Iraq and "bring down the dictator in Baghdad", as one put it.

Since the Arab League summit in Cairo voted 12-4 ten days ago to send Arab troops to help defend Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak has won overwhelming support among Egyptians for his stand. Even the opposition Muslim



Mubarak widely backed for his anti-Iraqi stance

From RICHARD OWEN IN CAIRO

Egyptian men line up to 'bring down the dictator in Baghdad'

Brotherhood has bowed to the public mood, deploring "foreign intervention" but condemning Iraq's actions.

Despite the influence of Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt, President Saddam's appeal to Muslims to rise up against their governments has fallen on deaf ears here. Yesterday Sheikh Hamed Abul Nasser, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, agreed to meet Nabil Negem, the Iraqi ambassador to Cairo. However, to the obvious chagrin of Iraqi diplomats, he emerged still calling for Iraqi forces to leave Kuwait.

Yesterday the Egyptian press could hardly conceal its glee at the prospect of Western military action. The opposition newspaper *al-Wafd* said that by using foreigners as hostages and threatening to use

poison gas, President Saddam had played his only remaining cards. "All that remains is his execution."

Such anti-Iraqi zeal was shared yesterday by the volunteers outside the Saudi embassy and at the United Arab Emirates embassy nearby. "We have to protect the holy places of Islam in Saudi Arabia," one man said, as he bent over a blisteringly hot car bonnet to fill in his application form.

Most Egyptians echo the view of the Mubarak government that Arabs must protect Mecca, and few seem to accept President Saddam's argument that the real conflict is between Islam and the West and that the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia is itself a desecration of Muslim sites.

Egyptians have no lack of reasons for opposing the Saddam

regime. Egyptian workers in Iraq had been systematically maltreated long before the current confrontation.

Egypt, as the most populous Arab state, greatly resents President Saddam's attempts to pose as leader of the entire Arab "nation". Official Egyptian anger with Baghdad is fuelled by the fact that the Iraqi leader's actions, and the support he has received from the Palestine Liberation Organisation, have undermined years of diplomatic efforts by Egypt to bring about Arab-Israeli peace talks.

There is, however, an economic cost involved in Cairo's firm stand, and Egyptian officials are clearly worried. A further contingent of Egyptian troops arrived in Saudi Arabia at the weekend. Although Cairo expects Wash-

Parade of old fears rekindles spirit of Arab unity

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

"I and my brother against my cousin, and I and my cousin against the stranger."

THAT centuries-old Arabic saying has been dusted down since the Gulf confrontation, both to explain how former opponents have united in a new wave of Arab nationalism, and to express the hope that others will join a pro-Iraqi alliance if the Iraqis and Americans ever become embroiled in war.

The revival of Arab nationalism has been most pronounced in the formerly pro-Western kingdom of Jordan, where yesterday a *de facto* coalition of left-wingers, nationalists, and the Muslim Brotherhood was unveiled as part of a popular campaign to resist the foreign presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The new Jordanian National Front in the 80-seat lower house reflected a linking of formerly hostile forces (notably Islamists and secularists) in a number of Arab League states, including Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia, Mauritania and Somalia.

All the alliances have come together to express backing for President Saddam Hussein. They have been joined by Palestinian splinter groups and the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation whose leader, Yasser Arafat, has publicly hitched the Palestinian cause to Iraq.

The tide of pan-Arab nationalism unleashed by President Saddam is being opposed by 12 members of the Arab League, led by Egypt, whose first president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, was the last leader to attract such wide pan-Arab support.

A Muslim Brotherhood official said yesterday: "Regardless of our opinion of Saddam Hussein, King Fahd's invitation of American troops to the holy land was totally unacceptable. Jerusalem was already under Israeli occupation and now the two most important Islamic shrines (Mecca and Medina) left were under American control."

President Saddam has worked effectively to strengthen the Islamic content in his struggle against the US. He has also exploited anti-Americanism, resentment between the oil-rich Arab states and their poorer brethren, and the bogey of Israel.

The sudden reversal of tensions between Islamists and secularists in the pro-Iraqi states is seen as a result of the populist support for Iraq's stand. As yet, this has had little effect in Egypt or Syria.

The Islamic fundamentalists did not previously have high regard for Iraq because it was known as a state where wine and women were freely available - Kuwaitis were some of the biggest spenders in Iraqi brothels.

But that initial distaste appears to have been overtaken in what many commentators in Jordan believe may eventually end as a struggle pitting the Islamic nations against the West, led by the United States.

The main unifying factor has been a conviction that the US has employed double standards in its attitude to Israel and Iraq. Arabs from all classes in Jordan draw bitter comparisons with what they cite as Washington's slowness to react to Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, compared with the speed of its mobilisation over Kuwait.

The Palestinians combine their opposition to what they term "American hypocrisy" with an impassioned belief that President Saddam is the only Arab strongman prepared to stand up for their cause. Few contemplate how far it could be set back if he is defeated in a military struggle.

MOSCOW

Kremlin edges closer to sending ground troops

By OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE question of Soviet ground troops being deployed to the Middle East against Iraq can no longer be ruled out. The possibility has already been discussed between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, apparently on the basis that Soviet troops would come under the general command of the Americans.

Although there would seem to be little likelihood of any Soviet troop involvement in the short term, it might be plausible in the longer term, if the confrontation between the Iraqis and Americans developed into a lengthy stalemate.

It can have been no coincidence that so much publicity was given last week to a Soviet military exercise in Odessa. President Gorbachev, on holiday on the Black Sea, made a point of addressing the troops.

The relevance of last week's exercise was that, if Soviet troops are to be dispatched to the Middle East, it is probable that naval infantry forces - the equivalent of marines - and airborne units, based in the Odessa military district, would be the first to go

because of their relative proximity to the region.

In last week's exercise, both naval infantry and airborne forces took part in a rapid deployment scenario. The Soviet naval infantry have no combat experience. They were not used in Afghanistan. But they and airborne forces would be the obvious choice if Moscow decided to send troops to the Middle East.

Richard Waff, editor of *Jane's Soviet High Command*, said yesterday that the naval infantry units attached to all four Soviet fleets consisted of a total of 80,000-100,000 men. This compares with 200,000 American marines.

Mr Waff said that there would be almost impenetrable command and control difficulties if Soviet and American troops fought together. He said: "One possibility would be for Soviet forces to operate from Syria, where there is a lot of Soviet equipment."

● MOSCOW: An Iraqi special envoy has arrived in Moscow for talks on the Gulf. It was announced here yesterday, Sadoun Hammadi the deputy prime minister and member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, came on Iraq's initiative (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Moscow indicated that it would make clear that its preference for a political settlement depended on Iraq withdrawing its troops from Kuwait. "It is very important that Iraq observe the UN resolution on the withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait," a foreign ministry spokesman, Yuri Gremitskikh, said.

Later Tass reported that Mr Hammadi had had a three-hour meeting with Mr Shevardnadze. The talks were described as "consultations" rather than negotiations.

Hinting that these may have been less than amicable, Tass quoted Mr Shevardnadze as saying that the meeting had been "an exchange of information and views, or a comparison of views with due account for the situation in the region".

ISRAEL

Political storm on issue of gas masks

From A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

A CALL by Israel's foreign minister, David Levy, for the immediate distribution of gas masks to the public is creating a political storm in Israel.

Mr Levy said at the weekend that immediate distribution in the face of Iraqi threats against the Jewish state was critical for public safety. "We can no longer postpone this action in the face of the unknown," he said.

The position puts him at odds with the defence minister, Moshe Arens, who has decided that distribution of masks could create a public panic here and be misread in Baghdad as a sign that Israel was preparing for an aggressive act.

The disagreement, which burst into newspaper headlines yesterday, indicates heightened tension between Mr Levy and Mr Arens, who are rivals in the right-wing Likud bloc and both hopeful future candidates for prime minister.

The office of the current prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, stepped in quickly to end the public debate. "The prime minister has asked his ministers not to discuss the issue publicly any more," Avi Pazner, one of Mr Shamir's aides, said.

An official with the civil defence, who asked not to be identified, said he believed Mr Levy's call would inflame the public rather than calm it. "We are prepared to distribute masks when the time is right," the civil defence official said. "But now, when there is no direct threat, we fear it could create panic." He said his agency also worried that the masks might not be properly maintained over long periods of time.

Many Israelis are not waiting for the government to act. Traders in Tel Aviv report brisk sales of gas masks, plastic ponchos, rubber boots and gloves.

Newspapers have run full-page "how to" guides for protection against gas attacks. Their suggestions that people be prepared with tape to seal windows and baking soda to make their clothes more gas-resistant have resulted in runs on tape and soda in shops.



United States marine recruits trying on gas masks during basic training at the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot in South Carolina recently

Court reform plans mean unfair sentencing, lawyers say

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MANY criminals could be unfairly sentenced under government plans to allow courts to impose unusually tough punishments on persistent violent and sexual offenders, lawyers and penal reformers said yesterday.

The Law Society and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) said that unless ministers defined this category of offender, courts were likely to use the power to impose unjustly long sentences.

However, the plans, which are part of a package of criminal justice proposals to be put to Parliament in the autumn, were welcomed by the Magistrates' Association and the Bar Association which said that they were necessary to protect the public from serious harm.

A keystone of the proposals, which ministers hope will pave the way for a further fall in the prison population, is that courts should base sentencing more closely on the offence committed and pay less attention, where recidivists are involved, to previous criminal records.

The white paper *Crime, Justice and*

Protecting the Public says, however, that the "proportionality" rule should be waived where persistent violent and sexual offenders are concerned. In practice, this would mean that such offenders would attract nearer the maximum penalty for any offence.

The proposals are, in the main, liberal. The exception clause is widely seen as an attempt by the government to provide a sweetener to the right wing in the Conservative party and to those voters who regard sentencing policy as too lenient.

Paul Cavadino of Nacro said that

ministers were mistaken if they felt that the public would welcome a move which offended the fundamental principle that punishment should match the crime. "It will be widely seen as unfair that someone who has committed a minor offence is punished more severely not because of what they have done but because of someone's guess of the likelihood of them reoffending."

The Law Society said that ministers needed also to stipulate in more detail the kind of previous criminal record which would allow courts to depart from the proposed sentencing norms. Stephen

Ridley, secretary of the society's criminal law committee, said that if the provision was framed too loosely it would be used by judges as a way of getting round the new sentencing rules. Judges, he added, were more pro-secutively orientated than the government would like.

Mr Ridley said that he believed that the clause, which if strictly applied would apply to only a very small number of offenders, had been devised to win over right-wing Tories to the government's putative "punishment in the community" regime. John Hosking,

chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said that the initiative, highlighted by John Patten, the Home Office minister of state, over the weekend, was welcome because it strengthened the deterrent impact of sentencing.

"One of the most frustrating things for both magistrates and the public is to see the same people constantly coming up before the courts, apparently undeterred by previous sentences," Mr Hosking said.

Leading article, page 9

Labour says capping brings £36m schools cuts

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EDUCATION budgets have been cut by a total of more than £36 million in the 17 local authorities charge-capped by the government, the Labour party claimed yesterday.

Measures taken by some councils to stay within spending limits have included the closure of a music service and the abolition of swimming lessons for primary children. Most authorities believe that their cuts will restrict the ability of schools to teach the national curriculum.

Labour's survey is the first to examine the impact on education of charge-capping in detail. Although the authorities' attempts to spread the cuts between services has kept the average reduction in education spending to less than 1 per cent of their education budgets, Derek Fatchett, the party's education spokesman, said that every area of the service would be damaged.

He added that unless government policy changed, the authorities would almost certainly have to make teachers redundant next year. Islington is drawing up plans for cuts four times as great as the present economies, which total more than £1 million, while Doncaster's projected cuts of £4 million could mean

the loss of up to 300 teaching jobs, he said. Only Camden, of the authorities charge-capped this year, has been able to protect education completely.

The council has done that by switching funds earmarked for the repayment of capital debt. Most of the other authorities have used their reserves to reduce the impact of the cuts, but may be unable to do so next year.

Mr Fatchett said that further and adult education, youth services and other non-statutory services were suffering most. Avon and Derbyshire had reduced further education budgets by about £1 million and a new tertiary college at Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had lost £500,000 of its funding before it opened.

The other danger area, according to the Labour survey, was repairs and maintenance. Some authorities had pared spending to the point where they would be in serious trouble if any of their schools needed major structural repairs.

The education department said, however, that most authorities had managed to plan their education services without setting overall budgets that were so excessive as to need capping.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, yesterday asked the High Court to quash a decision by Haringey council, north London, to set a new community charge of £536 instead of the £508 demanded by the government.

The authority has said that it could not reduce the charge by the required amount because the collection rate was lower than expected, and it has defied government orders to cut its poll tax from £572 per head to £508.

David Keene, QC, counsel for Mr Patten, said that the council's resetting of the charge on the basis of 10 per cent non-payment rather than its original estimate of 5 per cent was unlawful and beyond its powers. He said that the case concerned how far the budget reductions ordered by the minister were to be carried through into lower community charges. The outcome of the case was of importance to all local authorities and chargepayers in England and Wales, Mr Keene said.

Haringey's original budget calculation for the financial year beginning in April was £216.5 million. That was capped by £10 million to £206.5 million, which led to the council setting its new rate in July. Mr Patten has said that Haringey failed to comply with the provisions of the 1988 Local Government Finance Act, which required that a council, when setting a substitute community charge, should use the estimate of the default rate made when the community charge was originally set.

Temporary injunctions preventing Haringey from issuing new poll tax demands will stay in force until the end of the hearing. Robert Carruth, QC, counsel for Haringey, said that the minister's view of the provisions of the Act was blinkered and too narrow. There was no suggestion that the council's default estimate of 10 per cent was over-optimistic or unreasonable, he said.

The hearing will continue today.

Protester asks for Swedish asylum

A MAN aged 70 has applied for political asylum in Sweden after his poll tax bill was increased by £233.

Ken King, of Long Eaton, near Nottingham, made the written approach to Sweden's Ambassador in London following the poll tax reassessment by Erewash Borough council, which will effectively treble his payments.

"I don't think any other government would see people squeezed and squeezed as we are here," Mr King said. "If they are prepared to accept me in Sweden I will go."

In a separate case, an 89-year-old war veteran and his wife were ordered to pay their £800 poll tax bill by Newbury magistrates yesterday. Richard McMillan, of the Common, Frilsham, Berkshire, had returned his OBE medal to Buckingham Palace in disgust at a poll tax double his former rates bill.

Mr McMillan, supported by around 20 protesters, was the first of 1,621 people summonsed to appear before Newbury magistrates for failure to pay the charge. They imposed a liability order for his poll tax of £382.18 and £12 costs. A similar order was made against his wife Joan, aged 72.

After the hearing, Mr McMillan said: "What I would like to do now is take the money to the prison cell but my wife does not like sleeping on bare boards on the floor."

● National anti-poll tax campaigners joined a fight by flat owner Jonathan Davies to help to keep bailiffs out of his home in Wandsworth, south London, yesterday (Lin Jenkins writes).

Magistrates had last month granted a liability order on Mr Davies for non-payment of the poll tax. He has still not paid and the bailiffs had indicated that they would take action on or after August 20. All day, campaign members with walkie-talkies checked vehicle registration numbers for those allegedly belonging to the bailiffs. They also blocked the way to the flat but the bailiffs did not show up.

Sir Paul Beresford, leader of Wandsworth Council, insisted he would not bow to the pressure of anti-poll tax campaigners and that the council was determined to collect the charge, using bailiffs if necessary, from Mr Davies and more than 100 other Wandsworth residents for whom liability orders had been granted.



Richard Harris collecting money yesterday to try to save the Young Vic from closure

Theatres rally round to save Young Vic

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THEATRES and actors in London's West End are rallying round to help the Young Vic to raise £100,000 to avoid closing at the end of next month. Richard Harris, who is playing the leading role in *Henry VI* at Wyndham's Theatre, made the first of a series of stage appeals last night in the "bucket project" to help the Young Vic theatre to raise the money it needs.

Buckets were rattled in the foyer at the end of the performance to encourage donations from the departing audience. The company of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the Ambassadors is to follow suit as are other West End and fringe companies.

Since the Save the Young Vic Campaign was launched on August 12, £74,000 has been raised towards the target needed to carry out essential renovations to qualify for a theatre licence. An anonymous donation of £25,000 arrived last weekend.

Benefit performances are being given by the Royal Shakespeare Company (of *Pericles*), the company of *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune, and at the Young Vic itself its present production of Arthur Miller's *The Man Who Had All the Luck*.

The Young Vic has accumulated a deficit of £220,000, and after its £100,000 target is reached another £250,000 will have to be raised to carry out further restoration of the building.

Squabbles put Tory chief's future in doubt

By KERRY GILL

MICHAEL Forsyth, chairman of the Scottish Conservative party, will return from holiday in Italy at the end of the month to face his biggest political challenge. His opponents will spend the autumn trying to persuade the prime minister that it is time for him to be relieved of his post.

Discontent among mainstream Tories over Mr Forsyth's style of leadership has grown in the three weeks since Douglas Young, his most senior official at the party's Edinburgh headquarters, resigned.

The resignation is believed to have been the culmination of disputes between supporters of Mr Forsyth and Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, that caused Mr Young, director of campaigns and operations, to leave his £50,000 a year job after eight months.

Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish Tory Reform Group, said: "There are now serious problems with the management of the party. These have to be looked at and resolved. One has to carry on questioning who is running central office, what is their experience and how many elections have they masterminded."

"We are going into the next general election fighting for our political life and this requires the most experienced and skilled organisation. It is up to Mr Forsyth to answer these questions."

In a reference to opposition

to Mr Forsyth, a senior Tory said: "We are firing off the odd bullets and we hope that some will find their mark. Over the coming months we will seek to persuade Mrs Thatcher that he should go. We will continue chipping away but, at the same time, we will be constructive in promoting our policies to the electorate."

Supporters of Mr Forsyth are keen to see the hatchet buried, nervous that the sniping will affect his position as party chairman. One said: "I believe the events in the Middle East have made the reality of a June election a possibility. We cannot afford the luxury of internal disruption."

"Both Michael and Malcolm are excellent men in their jobs and it is vital for them to be seen to get on together. It has been more a case of periodic irritation with each other than any deep-seated animosity."

Oil firms put petrol up by 3.2p

Three more of Britain's largest oil companies raised petrol prices by 3.2p a gallon last night as fears rose that motorists will suffer even bigger increases over the next few weeks (Kevin Eason writes).

Esso, BP and Texaco followed Shell's decision at the weekend to put up the price of four-star petrol to 217.8p a gallon. Unleaded fuel is now 204.1p. With more than 8,000 forecourts now charging record prices, other oil firms are expected to follow quickly.

Yesterday's decision is not, however, expected to be the last; Opec is in confusion and analysts are predicting that any fighting in the Gulf will push the cost of oil over \$30 (£15.80) a barrel.

The oil companies, which say they are reflecting petrol prices in Rotterdam that have risen by 39 per cent since July, believe they may have to put up pump prices again as uncertainty over the Middle East grows.

Ten arrests in £2m drug haul

Customs officials were yesterday questioning nine men and a woman at Torquay police station, after £2 million of cannabis resin was seized at a service station near Exeter. Four of the group were arrested at Brixham, Devon, where 600 kilograms of the drug were brought ashore on Sunday from Good Hope, a trawler, Devon and Cornwall police said. The resin was transferred to a van. When the vehicle stopped at the Granada Services on the M5, five more people were arrested and a tenth person was arrested in the London area. It is believed that the cannabis came from Morocco.

Britons in lead

After three rounds of the Lloyds Bank Masters Chess Tournament at the Cumberland hotel in London, several British players share the lead. Murray Chandler, Glenn Flear, Mark Hebden and Mihai Suba have a 100 per cent score so far. Alex Wojtkiewicz, a Polish player, also has three points out of three. The event is the largest and most important open tournament to be held in the UK.

Brawl on ferry

A Dutchman with a broken jaw was flown to hospital by helicopter from a Channel ferry after a British stag party got out of hand. Police said that a fight broke out at about 3am on Sunday on the Olau Britannia which bound from Sheerness, Kent, to The Netherlands. The 38 Britons were met by police on their return to Britain. Four men held for questioning have been released on bail.

Hundreds of drug users get driving ban

SEVERAL hundred people each year are being banned from driving after being tested by doctors for drug-taking. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre said yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Dr John Irvine, head of the centre's medical advisory branch, said that the figure was "more than 100 and less than 1,000".

Drivers were called in for urine tests as a result of information passed to the centre by police and doctors but in a few cases anonymous information came from the public. He said: "The test is qualitative rather than quantitative in nature but drivers should realise that drugs like cannabis are hallucinogenic and can impair reflexes. Under the Road Traffic Act, the Secretary of State for Transport has a duty to ensure that people holding licences are not a danger whilst driving."

The number of cases referred to the centre had increased in recent years as the dangers of drug-taking and excessive drinking to drivers had become more widely appreciated.

John Jolly, deputy director of Release, a government-funded voluntary organisation providing advice to drug misusers, said he unreservedly condemned people who drove while under the influence of drugs. Where a test was positive it did not, however, prove that the driver had been irresponsible.

"Someone who has smoked cannabis can turn in a positive sample up to 30 days after he has consumed the drug," he said.

Woodsmen losing squirrel battle

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Warde has given up planting sycamore, beech and oak in the 700 acres of woodland on the Squerres Court estate near Westham, Kent. His family, who have lived there for more than two centuries, are fighting a losing battle against a more recent arrival - the grey squirrel.

These days the only newly planted sycamores on the estate are self-sown ones, easily identifiable by dead leaves and bark-stripped stems. "People think grey squirrels are nice, cuddly creatures and that killing them is cruel, but they have made any sensible planting of broadleaf trees impossible," Mr Warde said.

The grey squirrel was introduced to Britain from North America at the start of the century. It has been vandalising trees for decades and has long been recognised by woodsmen as a pest. Controlling the bushy-tailed rodent has, however, taken on a new urgency.

The squirrels seem to be getting more numerous, partly it is thought because more have survived two consecutive mild winters. At the same time the government is encouraging planting of the kind of trees on which they most like to feed.

"If we do not quickly organise a proper squirrel control scheme, then all the new broadleaved forests we are trying so hard to develop could be wiped out," said Andrew Christie-Miller, chairman of Timber Growers United Kingdom, which represents private sector forestry. Ninety per cent of productive broadleaved

woodland is in private hands. Britain is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. The Countryside Commission last year announced a scheme to plant 12 forests of mixed conifer and broadleaved trees on the fringes of blighted industrial areas. The agriculture ministry is also paying farmers to grow trees rather than cereals, with a premium for such species as oak, beech and ash.

Broadleaved hardwoods are more vulnerable to squirrel attack than the conifers favoured by commercial forestry. Sycamore and beech are the squirrels' chief addiction, but they also like oak, larch, maple, sweet chestnut and horse chestnut. Trees are most at risk when they are between 10 and 40 years old. "Fewer than 5 per cent of

trees are killed outright," said Harry Pepper, wildlife officer at the Forestry Commission near Farnham, Surrey. "That only happens if the squirrels ring-bark a tree by tearing off the bark all the way round the base of the trunk, cutting off the flow of sap to the leaves."

"More often the squirrels strip off bark higher up, which rots or becomes infected. Often the entire crown will die, disfiguring the tree and making it useless as timber. For some reason, possibly to do with sexual competition between young and old males, squirrels only behave in this way in May, June and July."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the agriculture ministry paid a bounty of a shilling (later raised to two

shillings) a tail to anyone shooting or trapping grey squirrels. But this did little to keep numbers down.

Hoppers holding grain laced with rat poison are the most efficient way of controlling grey squirrels. The animal has to crawl up a small tunnel and push open a flap door to reach the bait. The difficulty has been to devise a way of allowing the grey squirrel in while keeping out other small mammals.

In North America, where it does not show the same hooligan tendencies, the grey squirrel is a delicacy, stuffed and roasted or in a stew flavoured with walnut catsup. This is a taste that has yet to catch on here, but the prospect of reducing squirrel numbers by eating them is not promising.



Up a tree: John Warde inspecting grey squirrel damage to a horse chestnut

TUC calls for 'green' shop stewards in the workplace

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Trades Union Congress yesterday envisaged an army of "green" shop stewards watching out for industrial pollution from the workplace when it called for the labour movement to have a leading role in environmental policy making.

The estimated 250,000 union health and safety representatives in factories and offices should have additional environmental responsibilities, said John Edmonds, chairman of the TUC's environmental action group, launching the group's report which is to be presented to the TUC congress next month. Unions should be closely involved with the growing management prac-

tice of environmental auditing, he said, pressing managements to carry out and publish such audits and taking part in the audits themselves.

If the report is accepted at the congress, Mr Edmonds said, the TUC would seek a meeting with Chris Patten, the environment secretary, and with the CBI, to call for the establishment of environmental auditing as a normal part of management practice, with audits published every year in the manner of financial accounts. If the voluntary approach failed, the TUC would press for legislation to bring them in, he said.

The TUC's attitude to the range of global environmental problems, from the greenhouse effect to acid rain, is also set out in the report, and

yesterday Mr Edmonds, and Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said they wanted union thinking to move on from "black and white attitudes" which sometimes saw the preservation of jobs in polluting industries, or the ending of pollution, as simple alternatives.

However, the report does not discuss the employment implications of its most ambitious policy, a call for UK emissions of carbon dioxide, the principal gas causing the greenhouse effect, to be stabilised at present levels by the year 2000, five years ahead of the government's own target. Many energy analysts believe that coal-fired power stations, which with motor vehicles are the principal carbon dioxide pro-

ducers, will have to be largely switched to gas fuelling if such a target is to be met, which implies cuts in miners' jobs. Mr Edmonds said, however, that the TUC believed the target could be met by energy efficiency and restricting vehicle emissions.

The report also avoids another question raised by the 2000 target, the possible role of nuclear power in future electricity generation, over which Mr Edmonds admitted that his action group, like the whole union movement, is split.

● New industrial pollution measures requiring the installation of costly "clean" manufacturing equipment is threatening the viability of hundreds of firms, the Engineering

Employers' Federation is warning the government (Kevin Eason writes). The federation, which represents almost 5,000 companies, will meet the pollution inspectorate next month to ask for assurances over the implementation of the measures in the forthcoming Environmental Protection Act.

The employers' organisation says that some companies will be faced with bills of hundreds of thousands of pounds to install equipment that complies with the regulations. It says that the main problem with early guidelines is that the environment department has considered only the technical solutions to the "greening" of industry, but not the economic implications.

Report: The Times correspondents
Australia: 61-2-936-1234; Brazil: 55-21-510-1234; Canada: 1-800-387-1234; Denmark: 45-33-1234; France: 33-1-42-1234; Germany: 49-30-1234; Greece: 30-1-1234; Hong Kong: 852-2-1234; India: 91-11-1234; Italy: 39-6-1234; Japan: 81-3-1234; Korea: 82-2-1234; Luxembourg: 352-2-1234; Malaysia: 60-3-1234; Mexico: 52-5-1234; New Zealand: 64-9-1234; Norway: 47-22-1234; Pakistan: 92-3-1234; Portugal: 351-21-1234; Singapore: 65-4-1234; South Africa: 27-11-1234; Spain: 34-91-1234; Sweden: 46-8-1234; Switzerland: 41-1-1234; Taiwan: 886-2-1234; Thailand: 66-2-1234; USA: 1-212-1234; USSR: 7-312-1234; West Germany: 49-30-1234.

Drowned woman's husband a liar and cheat, coroner says

THE WIFE of a policeman who drowned in a jacuzzi while on holiday was probably unlawfully killed, a coroner said yesterday. He also described PC Alan Waldock, who has been cleared of her murder by a court, as a liar and a cheat.

Ian McCreath, the north Northumberland coroner, said that he rejected his story that his wife Doris's death was an accident. Mr McCreath said: "Had the standard of proof been the balance of probability I would have returned a verdict of unlawful killing. But as the standard of proof is beyond reasonable doubt such a verdict is not open to me."

Instead the coroner returned an open verdict on the 33-year-old nurse, who

drowned in the whirlpool bath at the couple's timeshare villa in Albufeira in the Algarve in March 1988. Her husband, aged 36, was held in custody in Portugal for a year before a court cleared him of murder.

PC Waldock of Wansbeck Close, Ellington, Northumberland, is back on duty with the Northumbria force and has custody of their son Christopher, aged seven.

He had told the coroner at an earlier hearing that the drowning was a tragic accident. He said his wife was alone in the jacuzzi when he walked in and saw her floating face down. In a state of "complete panic" he tried to drag her out but dropped her twice then ran for help. The fall, he said, accounted for six bruises on her head recorded

by pathologists as probably non-accidental. The officer, who admitted affairs with other women, had gone on holiday with his wife to patch up their marriage. He said that he confessed to her that he was having an affair with a married nurse, Moira Holt, but claimed that he did not want to leave his wife.

Mr McCreath said: "I had considerable difficulty with any attempt to believe his version of what happened when they were alone in the jacuzzi as honest and accurate in every respect. One cannot be sure about precisely what happened. There may have been some form of argument about his admission of an affair with Mrs Holt."

"I consider that Mr Waldock did commit an unlawful act, was reckless or grossly negligent but I cannot be sure beyond reasonable doubt about that." He said that an officer who knew first aid would be unlikely to panic in such a situation. He doubted the account of how he failed to drag his wife from water which only reached his waist.

Mr McCreath said: "I had the opportunity to assess Mr Waldock as a witness for lengthy periods of time. He was articulate and plausible but my lasting impression was that he was as easy lying under oath as he was with the truth."

At the hearing PC Waldock's solicitor, David Twigg, and a lawyer for Mrs Waldock's family both announced that they were considering appealing to have the open verdict set aside. Mr Twigg said he wanted an accidental verdict recorded, while Barry Speker said the family might seek a verdict of unlawful killing.

Police in riot gear halt siege

POLICE in riot gear burst into a house to end a 15-hour siege yesterday in which a mother and her son aged 3 were being held.

A note dropped from an upstairs window by Yvonne Licorish, aged 33, alerted neighbours that she and her son were trapped by a man with a knife. Roads around the street in Reading, Berkshire, were sealed off as eight police donned riot gear and prepared to storm the terraced house. Other detectives took up observation positions in neighbouring houses.

The siege began on Sunday night when Victor Alleyne, aged 30, and Miss Licorish

were in the house. Police were alerted when Miss Licorish dropped the note from the window. Another man who was also in the house, left to buy food but instead went to the police.

Mr Alleyne went to the back of the house to answer a police telephone call. As he briefly emerged into the garden, where police negotiators were behind a wall, other officers burst through the front door.

About 20 minutes later, Miss Licorish and her son were led by two policewomen from the house to an unmarked police car. They were driven to Reading police station.

GP sets aside politics to shop around for care

DR COLIN Leon, whose practice lies in one of the most deprived areas of the country, in Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, is a Labour voter, but he believes that the only way he can improve standards of health care and make his service more cost-effective is to take control of his budget.

"I have no time for Thatcherite beliefs but I do think that competition will improve quality. There is no justification for maintaining a service which is inadequate and inefficient just because it has always been there."

Under the fund-holding scheme, GPs will be given an average budget of £1 million to cover most practice costs, including drugs and space. Non-urgent hospital treatment. If a practice saves money by prescribing generic drugs, for example, it can spend the saving on hiring more staff or performing more minor surgery.

Dr Leon admits that some hospitals could lose their financial viability and those that specialise in certain treatments would be more likely to attract referrals. However, he says, once money starts following the patient, the best hospitals will gain.

The doctor, who is aged 62, has practised at Felling Health Centre, Gateshead for more than 35 years. His surgery was rebuilt three years ago to house anaesthetics, health promotional and diabetes clinics as well as an operating room for minor surgery. The practice, which has a register of 8,000 patients, is merging with one down the road to make it eligible to hold its own budget.

In spite of his political views, Dr Leon is also a member of the NHS reform group, which condemned the British Medical Association's scare campaign against the reforms. The doctor is convinced that GPs who control their budgets will be much more able to dictate standards. He has already written a protocol which is being discussed

with the other practice to push for higher standards from hospital consultants.

Dr Leon and his partners intend to do more minor procedures and most diagnostic tests in their surgery, and to spend the money saved on hospital fees on improving patient care. They will refer patients to hospital for more complex non-urgent operations but they will negotiate lengths of stay and choose day surgery where appropriate. The GPs will also agree with the consultant any post-operative care once the patient has returned home in an attempt to reduce unnecessary hospital visits.

Patients will not be expected to wait for more than six weeks for an out-patient visit and they should receive routine hospital treatment within three months. They will, however, be able to choose if they want more prompt treatment elsewhere.

Dr Leon has not submitted his proposals to the consultants yet. "If they turn round and say 'come off it', then we will just say we will

go down the road and try another hospital." He says that patients at the local Nuffield private hospital are being seen within six days by the same consultants who worked in the NHS. "You have to wait a year for an ophthalmological opinion in Newcastle, but if a patient can afford it privately, he can get it from the same guy within a week."

Dr Leon concedes that if the private hospital offers a cheaper deal, a short waiting list and high quality standards, he would send his patients there. He also admits that he could change 25 per cent or more of his referral pattern, by negotiating more cost-effective deals.

Although Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, has assured the prime minister that very little will change in the first year or two of the reforms, he admits that the budget scheme is a "wild card" because it is the least predictable.

A split is now emerging within the health department about whether the scheme should be changed to minimise the risk of disrupting services as doctors will, in theory, be able to change their referral practices at a whim. Some health officials argue that the only way to ensure that GPs do not change patterns of care too unpredictably is to impose strict monitoring, and encourage block contracts to be negotiated in advance, reflecting existing referral patterns wherever possible.

Other members of the NHS management executive want to limit the number of GPs given control of their budgets to 300 or less, while allowing them total freedom. They believe restricting GPs who wish to hold their budgets would discourage and disillusion the enthusiasts.

Dr Leon agrees, resenting the notion of any controlling hand. He is concerned, however, that hospitals will not have accurate enough prices for treatment procedures by next April, which could make budgeting difficult.



Dr Leon: "No point in keeping poor system"

BT puts estates off limits

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH Telecom is refusing to service telephone lines on two south London housing estates because it says conditions are too dangerous for its engineers.

Southwark council has complained to the regulatory body, Ofel, accusing BT of an abuse of monopoly in refusing service to the council's Gloucester Grove and North Peckham estates.

Telecom said yesterday: "We notified Ofel on August 2 that we could not service lines on the estates because conditions in the crawlways represented an undue risk to

health and safety. We have been sending detailed reports to the council for months now, complaining about risks from asbestos, electrical hazards, inadequate and vandalized lighting, broken glass and contamination with rat faeces and urine."

The spokesman said that there were known to be nearly 80 lines out of order on the two estates and about 60 applications for new services unattended. "Our engineers are robust individuals used to working in cramped and difficult conditions but the line has to be drawn somewhere. We

are under no obligation to service phones where there is a risk to the health and safety of our workers," he said.

John Broomfield, Southwark's director of housing, said yesterday: "It is an extraordinary way to treat customers. Tenants rely on telephones to contact emergency services, friends and relatives. Not to do repairs is disgraceful."

BT said: "I cannot understand why Southwark should be expending their energy complaining to Ofel. They should be cleaning up the area and making it safe."



This study of Princess Margaret in the grounds of Kensington Palace has been commissioned from Geoffrey Shakerley to mark her 60th birthday today (Alan Hamilton writes). No official celebrations are planned for what is the royal family's third big personal anniversary this year, after the Queen Mother's 90th birthday and the Princess Royal's 40th. Princess Margaret will go to a family dinner party at Balmoral tonight, attended by many family members

including the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Princess Royal. Born at Glamis Castle in 1930, Princess Margaret was the first member of the royal family in line of succession to the throne to be born in Scotland since the future Charles I entered the world at Dunfermline in 1600. Her life, to some extent consigned to the shadow of her elder sister, was made no easier by the political humbug that prevented her marriage to a divorcee,

Group Captain Peter Townsend, in the 1950s and publicity surrounding the failure of her marriage to Lord Snowdon. Princess Margaret maintains a considerable portfolio of patronages, including the chancellorship of Keele University, and colonel-in-chief of Queen Alexandra's army nurses. There will be a birthday telegram today from the 600,000 members of what is perhaps her favourite and best-known patronage, the Girl Guides.

Guinness jurors to retire on 107th day

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE jury in the Guinness trial is expected to retire today, the 107th day of the hearing at Southwark crown court in south London, to consider its verdicts.

The judge, Mr Justice Henry, said that he expected to send out the jury after today's luncheon adjournment. They are likely to take some time to reach decisions on the 22 counts facing the four defendants.

Ernest Saunders, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, and three other businessmen, have denied all charges which arise from their alleged involvement in an illegal share support operation. The prosecution claims that it was set up in 1986 to ensure the brewing group's success in a takeover battle with Argyll, the supermarket chain, for control of Distillers, the Scottish drinks group.

With Mr Saunders in the dock are Gerald Ronson, chairman of the Heron Group; Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier.

The jury has heard 75 days of evidence and ten days of speeches since mid-February. Yesterday the judge, on the fourth day of his summing up, continued to take them through the indictment, explaining the prosecution case as well as setting defence arguments against it.

The judge reminded the jury last night to bring sufficient clothing and medications to last for the period of their retirement. He warned them that they would not be allowed to read newspapers or listen to television and radio bulletins during their retirement in case they included material that impinged upon the trial.



"My Rolex is more than just a watch,

it makes me feel dressed." In everything that she does, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa combines a remarkable liveliness and spontaneity with an absolute obsession with perfection.

She delights in Strauss and Mozart "because the women in their operas are contradictory: warm and cool at the same time." Two of her favourite roles, for example, are the sad young Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the frenzied, passionate Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*.

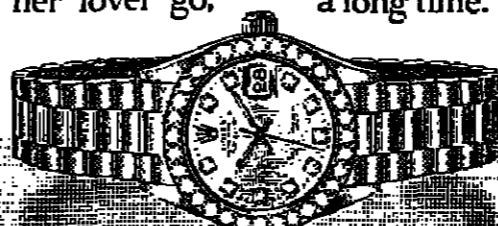
When she decided to sing the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Kiri said it was "because the character appeals to me. She has understanding and maturity and when she lets her lover go,

I feel it's not completely the end of the world for her. I'm sure I will have to sing the Marschallin 100 times before I fully understand the depth of the character."

Her famous voice is in such worldwide demand that she is booked up for years to come. Will her voice stand the strain? Kiri says, "What you have to remember is to give quality, not quantity."

For many years, Rolex has shared that same obsession. "My Rolex," says Kiri, "is more than just a watch, it also makes me feel dressed. It has been a friend for a long time."

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION

UK faces being one of worst educated nations, Moser says

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN faces becoming one of the worst educated of all the advanced nations, the British Association for the Advancement of Science was warned yesterday by its president Sir Claus Moser.

"Hundreds of thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation," he told members at Swansea. Britain had sadly declined and no longer matched continental Europe, Japan, or, in higher education at least, the United States.

"I cannot understand how any government can fail to make education its top priority, given what is at stake for our children and the country. Indeed, if we have any sense, we will make the 1990s Britain's decade for education."

Sir Claus, who is warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and a former head of the government statistical service, called for a Royal Commission on education, which would be all-embracing, visionary yet realistic. Although he acknowledged that such bodies were not popular with the prime minister he said: "One need only look back to some commissions of the past to see how valuable they can be in guiding thinking at a particular time — the Beveridge report; Fulton on the Civil Service; Mountbatten on prisons; Layfield on local government finance and Annan on broadcasting. But few of these major topics can compare with education in importance."

It was, he said, a mystery why education carried such low esteem in Britain. The answers lay in the past, in the Whig tradition, in the priorities of the rural aristocracy, in the influence of the Church and in the days when Britain ruled the world and felt that all it required were qualities of moral character and leadership rather than the back-up of an educated population.

"To this day, intellectuals are viewed with some suspicion," Sir Claus said. "Cleverness is not wholly admired."

The worst aspect of British education, he said, was that most children left school at 16. In 1988, only 35 per cent of those between 16 and 18 were in full-time education, the lowest in any advanced country. In America the figure was 79 per cent, in Japan 77 per cent, 66 per cent in France and 76 per cent in Sweden. Among 16 year olds, only half were still in full-time education, the lowest — apart from Greece — in the European Community.

"The bearing of these circumstances on hope and motivation, on social problems like drugs, crime and hooliganism, are obvious. A new deal for the 16-18 year olds is vital."

He questioned why so many youngsters left school at the first opportunity. Even for those who surmounted O-levels the prospect of further examinations geared to sifting out those destined for higher education was, for many, an

unattractive or inappropriate proposition. What was needed was a more flexible curriculum, taking in academic and vocational courses. Sir Claus was also critical of the gaps in primary school teaching of history, geography, music and reading.

"It is estimated that something like one child in seven leaves school functionally illiterate; some authorities estimate put the figures higher," he said.

Central to the problem was the state of the teaching profession, particularly the quality of the teachers. Many, especially in science subjects, were inadequately prepared, he said. A recent report carried out by school inspectors in Hackney, north London, found that 40 per cent of lessons were unsatisfactory. "It is an intolerable situation and it is children who suffer," Sir Claus said. It was not all a matter of money, he said, although an increase in resources was needed. The proportion of Britain's gross domestic product spent on education had fallen from 5.5 per cent in 1980-81 to 4.9 per cent in 1987-88. This compared with 6.7 per cent in the United States, 7.2 per cent in Sweden and 7.9 per cent in Denmark.

"Wherever you touch our education system, major deficiencies undermining the future of children and country emerge," he said. Britain now needed a new national

commitment to education, which would be symbolised by a Royal Commission. Future generations would then come to look back on it with gratitude. The time was ripe, indeed urgent.

Sir Claus, who carried out

the statistical work for the Robbins committee which led to a great expansion of the universities in the 1960s and 70s, also defended the role of the social sciences.

In the past, he said, they had promised too much, and had

lost credibility. But their input was of great value, and should not be underestimated. He called for an annual state of the nation report, possibly under the Economic and Social Research Council, or one of the leading foundations.

Such a report, covering areas such as poverty, crime, education and urban blight, would, he said, be invaluable in leading to more informed understanding, debate and decisions.

Leading article, page 5



Sir Claus Moser: time is ripe for a Royal commission on education to safeguard the future of the country's children

Scientists challenged to have 'really wild' ideas

SCIENTISTS at the meeting were challenged to come up with "really wild ideas" for research such as generating electricity in a natural way as already happens with electric eels.

The challenge was made as a new clean technology unit was unveiled with an initial budget of £1 million to promote research into environmentally friendly processes and products.

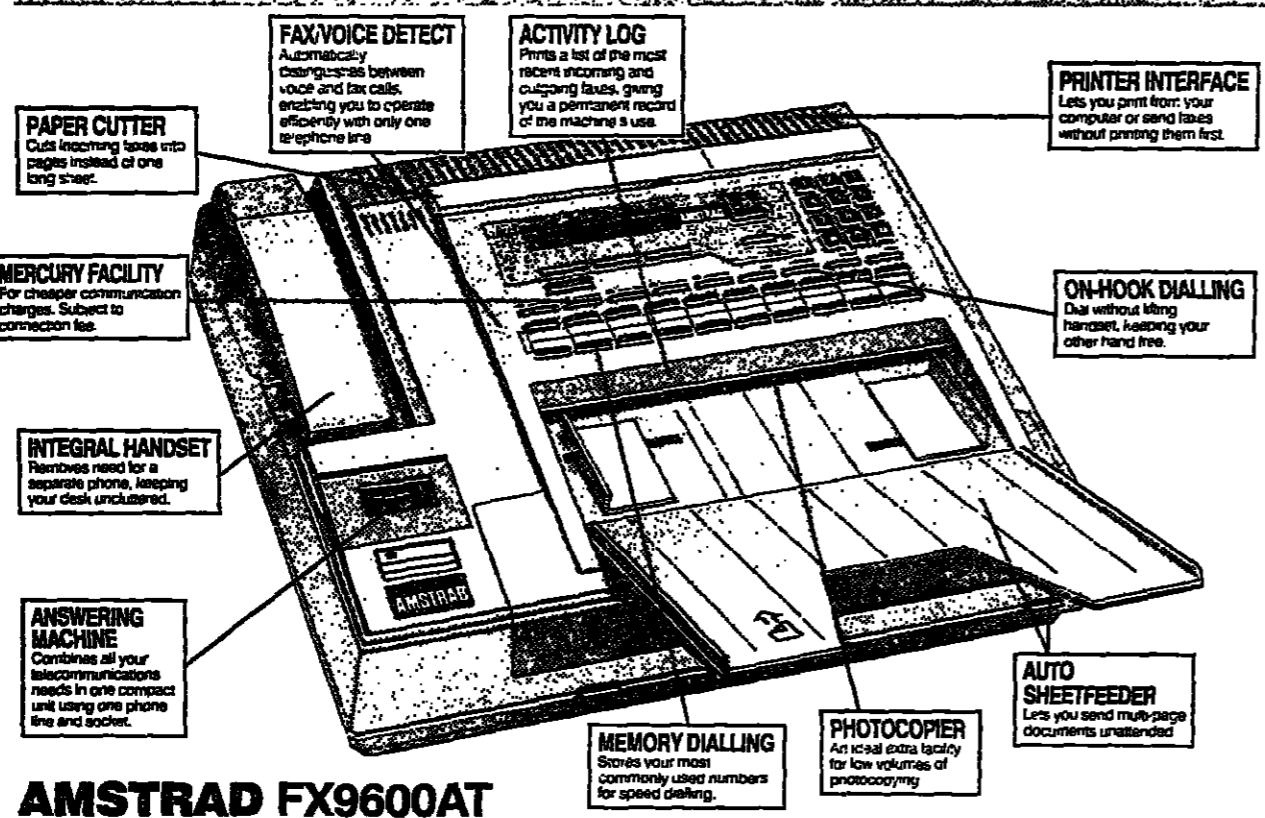
Nicholas Lawrence, the director of the unit, declared his readiness to invest in visionary projects. "A biological route to electricity would be marvellous. It happens with electric eels. Can we do it on a wider scale?"

New kinds of trees might be bred which would grow fast, be easily harvested and could be used as a clean fuel, Dr Lawrence suggested.

He told the association that funds usually went to safe projects. It was, however, also important to fund research into ideas which, though unlikely to pay off, could transform the future. "It's important for research councils to put a bit of their money into really wild ideas," Dr Lawrence said.

The clean technology unit has been set up by the Science and Engineering Research Council and the Agricultural and Food Research Council and is seeking annual funds of £10 million. Among 40 ideas submitted is a proposal to develop a refrigeration system making use of the ability of calcium chloride to cool when it is dried out.

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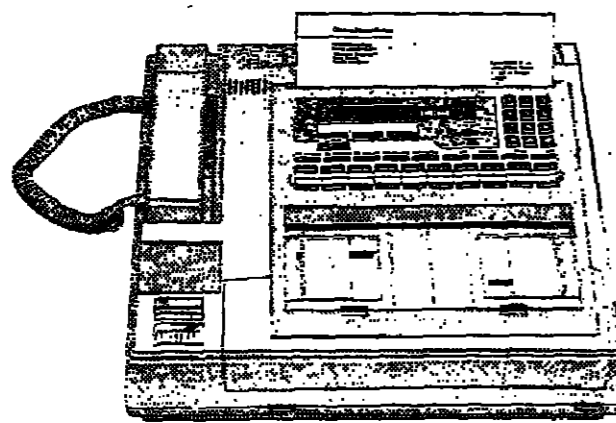
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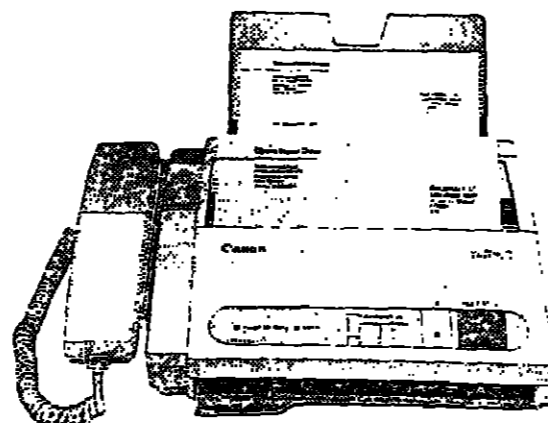
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Embryo research rules 'model for other countries'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

GENETIC engineering of the human egg could become essential to prevent a virus more deadly than HIV from being passed from mother to child, an embryologist said yesterday.

If such a virus emerged, it could threaten mankind by hiding within human cells for years before expressing itself, Dr Martin Johnson of Cambridge University said. The repair of genetically defective embryos by germ line gene therapy, a technique not yet developed, would defeat any such virus.

Dr Johnson said that he was not advocating work of this kind, but merely offering it as an example of the need to consider the implications of future research. "Imagine a virus more deadly than HIV which could hide in the DNA of the eggs and sperm and be transmitted to children or even grandchildren before expressing itself," he said.

"Such a virus could threaten the continued existence of whole communities or even humankind. One way to eradicate it would be to target the viral DNA within the fertilised egg to inactivate it and even to insert a gene that produced an anti-viral agent that resisted reinfection," he said.

Dr Johnson said these prospects needed to be carefully examined before they became realities. "We should be grateful that we now have a body, in the shape of the Human

Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which can undertake such a function."

The embryologist was opening a debate, which will continue in Swansea today, on the medical, moral and social implications of embryo research. He said that work in Britain was now subject to severely restrictive legislation that could be a model for other countries.

"This country has led the way in the biology, the medicine, the ethics and now the legislative and political process," he said. "Many other countries contemplating their own legislation will look to the style and substance of our democratic debate."

Some of Dr Johnson's views were challenged by Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College London. "Parliament has made up its mind on embryo research but the moral debate is by no means over," he said. "Embryo research is too morally problematical to contemplate. All research on the embryo is, in my view, to be avoided if it can be, and I believe that it can be."

"There is no right answer to the questions it raises, only answers that are less wrong," Professor Kennedy said. "There must be a creative tension between those who support this work and those opposed to it. Those involved have to ask themselves why they are doing this work and for whom they are doing it."

Algae may curb global warming

A THEORY that global warming could be slowed down by growing algae across the southern oceans may be tested in the next few years (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Phillip Williamson of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory told the British Association that iron, scattered on the sea's surface, would encourage the growth of algae. That would capture carbon released into the atmosphere by the activities of man. Some of the algae would sink to the bottom of the ocean carrying the carbon with them.

Two American groups have proposed experiments along these lines and the Plymouth laboratory is collaborating with them. The assumption is that the only thing stopping the explosive growth of algae in many parts of the oceans is a deficiency of iron, so that adding comparatively small amounts would produce a disproportionate increase in algal growth.

The algae would use the carbon dioxide in the air as a building block, just as land-based plants do. Much of the algae would eventually die on the surface, releasing carbon again, but a small proportion, perhaps 10 per cent, would fall

to the bottom of the ocean where the carbon would be trapped in slow-moving water for 1,000 years. The algae would therefore act as sponges, soaking up excess carbon and removing it to a place where it could do no harm.

Dr Williamson was cautious, however, about the effectiveness of the scheme. An American scientist, John Martin, from Moss Landing Marine Laboratory in Bodega Bay, California, has estimated that 900,000 tons of iron — a supertanker load — would mop up an entire year's output of carbon.

However, Dr Williamson told the session on climatic change, organised by the Natural Environment Research Council, that the bulk of the iron would sink before it could do any good, and perhaps 90 per cent of the algae would die and rot on the surface. He suspects that the supertanker-full of iron might take out only one ten-thousandth of annual production. He nevertheless thinks the experiment is worth carrying out. "It's not something I'm raising a flag for, but we do need to know our options for the future," he said.

Dubcek clings to the faith and ideals of Prague 'spring'

Twenty-two years ago today, Soviet-led forces invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the Prague spring. Nicholas Bethell interviews Alexander Dubcek, the then Communist party first secretary and symbol of the doomed attempt to build socialism with a human face.

ALEXANDER Dubcek, re-elected as president of the Czechoslovak parliament after the free elections, is a lucky man. Against many of the predictions, he has retained a symbolic post, even though he has become a sad figure in parliament and an embarrassing reminder to Czechs and Slovaks of their inglorious communist past.

The West may see him as the man who meant well in 1968, who tried to build socialism with a human face until he fell victim to neo-Stalinist Soviet imperialism. Some might say that the past year has been the "summer" of the "spring" he began 22 years ago. In his own

country, though, as I found during my recent meeting with him in his impressive office in the parliament building off Wenceslas Square, he is a broken politician, fearful of awkward questions and all too aware of his unpopularity.

Pavel Bratinka, the leader of the conservative Oda movement and one of the new Civic Forum MPs, sums up this feeling. "In 1975 he wrote a letter complaining about his treatment, how he was under strict police surveillance. But he said nothing about those who were worse off than him, men like Václav Proházka, Jaroslav Šabata and Milan Hubička, who served long prison terms for supporting his ideals more than he did himself. This is not the record of a hero. He never signed Charter 77 and he made contact with Havel as late as May 1989, when Havel was released after eight months in prison for laying flowers on a grave. He never joined Civic Forum. He is a bit like Gorbachev, tremendously popular abroad but not too popular at home."

President Havel's adviser, Sasa Vondra, is almost as severe. "Last year I

was a Charter 77 spokesman. Dubcek was not much use to us. He would not sign our appeals on behalf of people in prison. He kept saying that he had some plan of his own to 'mediate' - this at the darkest time of all, when there was no middle ground, no possible chance for mediation. And during the crisis last November he was never available. We could never contact him."

How could he have fallen so far from the heroic pedestal on which he stood in 1968 to the crumpled state in which he finds himself today?

Mr Dubcek's problem is that childhood and family background built him into a life-long prisoner of communist doctrine and a stubborn admirer of the Soviet Union. These convictions remained with him even after 1968 and, in a way, they still hold him, even though he knows logically that they are a religion that has failed the test of history.

His family were brought up to worship Marx and Lenin and the Soviet Union. "My father was dedicated to communism," Alexander Dubcek told me. "He was brought up in great poverty. My

grandfather worked in a glass factory and he died of tuberculosis, because of glass getting into his lungs. My father was only ten. He had to bring up his younger brother and sister. He emigrated to the United States in 1909. He earned good money in Chicago, \$30 a week. When he came home in 1921, he had savings. It was what many Slovaks did, work in America, then come home and use the money to buy a house or a workshop. This was not my father's idea, though. After I was born, he decided to take us all to the Soviet Union."

His young life was, he recalls, marked by a series of "confrontations of ideas" in the Soviet Union. It was not enough to deter him, though. He returned to Slovakia in 1938 and joined the Communists. During the Khrushchev reforms, a spell at the Higher Party School in Moscow restored his belief that, however bad the mistakes, the theory was beyond criticism.

His faith in the "religion" was absolute and in 1968 he had no idea that invasion was imminent. "Of course, we asked ourselves this question. But the

answer was always no. We felt that it would be too great a shock for the left movements of the world."

So, when he was proved wrong, did he think of resisting by force of arms? "Look at the map," he said. He and his friends were seized during the invasion's first hour. The original plan, he assumes, was to have them tried and executed. "The soldiers arrested us 'in the name of the Revolutionary Tribunal,'" he said. "It was only our people's solid resistance and the worldwide protests against the invasion that saved our lives, because the 'Revolutionary Government' was never constituted."

It was, he told me, "the last drop that filled the cup" of his disillusionment. But it was the "neo-Stalinism" or "Brezhnevism" that disillusioned him, not communism itself.

His 1975 letter was an attack not on communism, but on the government's communist credentials. Gustav Husak's rule, he wrote, was "not compatible with marxism-leninism" and "damaging to socialism". He kept public silence for 12 more years, until Mikhail Gorbachev's

reforms. In 1988, he told the Italian Communist newspaper, *Unità*: "I have had to go back to the works that remain topical: Marx, Engels and Lenin. Even now I have before me many of their thoughts, which I see as a legacy for future generations of revolutionaries." His aim in 1968, he added, had been to support and improve socialism.

"It does not mean that there is nothing useful to be found in Marx and Lenin," he told me. "Capitalism has found a way of reforming itself. It is not what it was before the first world war." Marx and Lenin, he believes, were "a product of their time" when capitalism was on the rampage. But they are still valid in terms of humanism, democracy and socialism.

This is his justification. The banner raised by Lenin has now, he believes, been passed to West European democratic socialists. Sweden, not Russia, is today the hope of the future. Yet at the same time he says: "I belong to no party, not even the social democrats. I will stay in politics as an independent, to help us towards Europe, but the old ideas have no basis now. Today I am nowhere."

Pretoria withdraws its indemnity for ANC military chiefs

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African government has withdrawn temporary indemnity from arrest from the military leader of the African National Congress and two senior colleagues after belittling statements and allegations of ANC guerrilla infiltration and a communist conspiracy.

Chris Hani, the chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, Ronnie Kasrils, its former intelligence chief, and Sathyanathan Maharaj were omitted from a government gazette extending indemnity to 41 members of the ANC and the South African Communist Party until the end of the year. The initial amnesty, introduced to facilitate peace talks, expired at midnight on Sunday.

All three are members of the ANC executive committee, and of the Communist Party interim leadership. Mr Maharaj is already in detention under security legislation, Mr

Hani is believed to be in the "independent" tribal homeland of Transkei, and Mr Kasrils is in hiding.

Pretoria has given no official explanation, but it is understood to have been angered by Mr Hani's declaration last month that the ANC might have to seize power if the negotiations broke down. Mr Kasrils and Mr Maharaj are alleged to have been involved in the infiltration of ANC guerrillas, and a communist plan to establish a clandestine militia.

A senior government source said yesterday their conduct had not been conducive to peace. "These guys have not been behaving in a responsible manner," he said. The justice ministry said the three could apply to President de Klerk to restore their indemnity.

Sporadic violence continued yesterday in black townships in Transvaal, where more than 360 people have been killed in a week of clashes between ANC supporters and followers of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader. Three people were killed and four wounded in Kagiso, west of Johannesburg, and 11 bodies were discovered at a workers' hostel in KwaMashu, east of the city. All of them had been shot. Riot police intervened on several occasions as rival groups massed, but no other big incidents were reported.

There is still no apparent prospect of peace talks between Chief Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, despite urgent appeals by the government. As a result, efforts to

establish joint peace committees at local level have foundered. Chief Buthelezi has expressed willingness to meet Mr Mandela, but the ANC has ruled out any meeting with the Zulu leader, whom it accuses of inciting the violence.

Mr Mandela's wife, Winnie, accused security forces of supporting Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha organisation in the strife, and said the ANC might have to reconsider its recent decision to suspend its armed struggle. Opening an ANC branch office in Soweto on Sunday, she accused police of providing Inkatha with arms and of killing township residents. "The government is working hand-in-hand with Inkatha," she said.

Mrs Mandela has a tendency towards militancy, but she was supported by the relatively moderate ANC leader Walter Sisulu, who claimed there was evidence that the police had been assisting Inkatha.

ADDIS ABABA: The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) appealed yesterday for a halt to the violence between black factions in South Africa, calling it "senseless carnage". "Fratricidal violence among the victims of apartheid only plays into the hands of those opposed to the dismantling of the heinous system of institutionalised racism," the 51-member body said in a statement.

The OAU said all those suffering under apartheid should unite in talks on a new non-racial constitution for South Africa. (Reuters)

R. W. Johnson, page 8



On the road: a Xhosa man with his possessions leaving a migrant workers' hostel at KwaMashu in Transvaal, where dozens have died in recent factional violence

Croatian tensions force out tourists

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

GROWING tensions between Serbs and Croats are forcing tourists on the Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia to cut short their holidays.

Newspapers said that tourists were massing on main roads towards the borders from the area around Knin, near the Bosnian frontier, where armed Serbs set up roadblocks to prevent police from stopping them holding an autonomy referendum on Sunday. The daily *Vecernje List* said it interviewed several foreigners, all of whom said they were leaving because of tension between Serbs and Croats, Yugoslavia's largest ethnic groups. It said that the exodus could damage the economy badly. *Vecernje Novosti* reported long queues at border points because of the rising ethnic tension.

The Croatian parliament has interrupted its summer recess and will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the turmoil provoked by the referendum, which reawakened Serb-Croat animosities and threatened to draw the rest of the country into a civil war.

The two groups have been rivals for centuries. But tension rose sharply after Croatia rejected 45 years of communist rule in free elections in May. The change almost totally shattered the relationship between the Serbs and Croats that traditionally has been the pivot of power in Yugoslavia. "I think the Gulf crisis is easier to solve than this one," a Western diplomat said.

The latest turmoil has put even more pressure on the federal government as it seeks to engineer a new constitution. Serbia insists on the present federal structure and strong central authority.

"Neutral" republics say the present federal structure has outlived its purpose, while Slovenia and Croatia say that Yugoslavia is finished in its present form and can only survive as a confederation.

After the right-wing Croatian administration under Franjo Tudjman pledged to constitute Croatia as a sovereign state, the Serbian media launched a hard-hitting propaganda campaign, accusing Croatia of discriminating against Serbs, who represent 11 per cent of the western republic's population.

The intransigence of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian communist leader, who has said his republic would demand frontier readjustment should Yugoslavia change its present structure, has already divided the country, with other ethnic groups alleging that the Serbs want to dominate the nation.

The Croatian leadership is convinced that the Serbian minority is receiving its orders to rebel from Serbia, and Dr Tudjman bluntly accused Mr Milosevic of conceiving, inciting and guiding the insurrection. The populist Serbian leader has denied the charges and launched a counter-attack, again accusing Croatia of depriving Serbs of their rights.

Soviet desertion at record levels

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

TWO Soviet conscripts, aged 20, who seized weapons before deserting from their unit in the Ukraine, were killed in a gun battle with the men sent to recapture them, *Pravda* reported yesterday.

The report highlighted the problems of desertion from the Soviet Army which, according to the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, has reached record levels. He told troops near the Black Sea port of Odessa at the weekend that there was great reluctance among young men to report to the conscription board.

He said the army had succeeded in drafting fewer than 50 per cent of those called up in the Baltic republics, but the figures for the Caucasus were much worse. In Armenia, the spring conscription round had been effectively halted because only 7.5 per cent had answered the call-up, while for Georgia the figure was only 28 per cent.

Marshal Yazov also spoke of the demoralisation of the officer corps because of inadequate arrangements for their demobilisation. He said problems included housing and employment for demobilised servicemen and the increasing hostility of civilians towards the military. Officers found themselves discriminated against and even "insulted morally and physically" by civilians.

The marshal, who is not known for enthusiasm for proposed military reforms, promised extensive changes, both in the way that appointments were made and in the role of political officers.

President Gorbachev, in his address to the meeting, which severely criticised Iraq, said that he was considering extensive military reform. He said that three fundamental questions would be on the agenda of a crucial defence council meeting next month: whether to reduce the number of arms of the Soviet armed forces from its present five; whether the army should become a purely professional body; and whether, as long as conscription remained, conscripts should serve their terms of duty in their home republics.

There have been many complaints from conscripts from minorities that they are victimised. Boris Yeltsin, when he became president of the Russian Federation, said the armed forces should remain under central command. However, he would support a programme which allowed conscripts to serve mainly in their home republics.

Harvest losses: The Soviet Union is losing one million tonnes of grain a day during the harvest because of labour, transport and storage problems, *Pravda* said yesterday. The report was the first concrete indication of the scale of losses as the country struggles to bring in a record harvest. Students, factory workers, soldiers and even KGB forces have been sent to help with harvesting. (Reuters)

Children die in Beirut gun battles

Beirut - Two children were among 10 people killed in mortar and machinegun battles between rival Shia Muslim groups in Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday, security sources said. Twenty-five people were wounded.

Syrian troops later intervened to halt the fighting between militants of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) and fighters loyal to the Syrian-backed Amal.

Dozens of cars were destroyed and shops and apartments were damaged in the fighting, witnesses said. (Reuters)

Titian find

Venice - A previously unknown work believed to be by the 16th-century Italian artist Titian has been discovered in an art restorer's workshop, city art officials said. The painting depicts a penitent St Jerome. (Reuters)

Biggest family

Tokyo - A Japanese woman aged 44 has given birth to her eighteenth child, a boy, making her family the biggest in the country, hospital officials said in Yachiomata, near here. She now has eight daughters and ten sons, the oldest of them aged 25. (Reuters)

Tribes clash

Delhi - At least 52 people died and more than 100 were injured in four days of clashes between former head-hunting tribes in India's northeastern Nagaland state, officials said. (Reuters)

Killer epidemic

Addis Ababa - Ethiopia said that a meningitis epidemic in the rebel-held northern Wollo province had killed thousands of people. The official Ethiopia News Agency said between seven and 10 people were dying every day. (Reuters)

Priest drowns

Nettuno - Father Josef Zverina, aged 77, a Czechoslovak dissident priest, drowned in a weekend bathing accident during a visit to a religious shrine south of Rome, police said. (Reuters)

SS man charged

Stuttgart - Josef Schwammberger, aged 78, a former SS concentration camp commandant, has been charged with involvement in the murder of more than 3,400 Jews, including at least 50 who he is alleged to have killed himself. (Reuters)

EC bends rules to embrace East Germany

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission, interrupting the summer break for an emergency session, will today complete its proposals for bringing East Germany into the European Community and announce a tailored transition timetable.

Jacques Delors, the commission president, will unveil a 129-page document against a background of a collapsing East German economy, disquiet over the mounting costs

of German economic union, and a changing timetable for reunification, with the date now set for October 14. The 17-strong commission will approve six months of intensive bargaining between Brussels, Bonn and East Berlin over the pace of East German integration and temporary exceptions to EC rules to allow the East German economy time to adapt to competition.

A commission team has

been working throughout the holiday, poring over the mass of EC legislation which a united Germany will be obliged to implement in the East. The most contentious areas are agriculture, trade, the environment and competition policy. German officials sought lengthy transition periods, especially in implementing the EC's tough environmental rules which almost no industry in the East

can yet meet. Brussels is prepared to allow until the end of 1995 before enforcing full compliance on air, water quality and waste disposal rules.

But as the East German economy slides into chaos, feeling is hardening in Brussels that only a "big bang" will work and that exceptions should be kept to a minimum. There are fears that transition costs will rise uncontrollably, with other EC members subsidising special arrangements, despite Bonn's earlier assurance it would bear the costs.

A priority is the rapid reform of East Germany's inefficient and antiquated agriculture. Over-production of milk and an excess of sugar - exacerbated by Cuban imports - will cost the common agricultural policy dearly.

Brussels has come under pressure to give special aid to East German farmers to compensate for their estimated drop in incomes of up to 40 per cent since economic union on July 1. But any rebates would arouse the anger of farmers elsewhere in the community, and would go against EC promises in negoti-

tations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to move towards sharp cuts in farm subsidies.

EC leaders approved the broad lines of the commission plan for East Germany at a summit in Dublin in April. Since then the problems have worsened. Brussels foresees East Germany maintaining its trade links with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for some time after reunification. However, trade contracts with Hungary and Czechoslovakia have now been broken, leading to bitter recriminations from both countries and trade with Moscow, currently accounting for 40 per cent of East German output, is likely to see a swift fall.

Brussels is becoming increasingly nervous over the wholesale buy-out of collapsing East German industries by West German companies. Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner for competition policy, has warned East Berlin that he will not tolerate breaches in community competition rules by the creation of virtual monopolies in key fields such as insurance and energy.

Delors eases monetary plan

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, president of the European Commission, will today present a commission paper on economic and monetary union that will form the basis for a crucial discussion of the issue by community finance ministers in Rome next month.

The paper, to be formally adopted by the 17-member commission at a special meeting today, is expected to call for a short, second-stage transition period before the

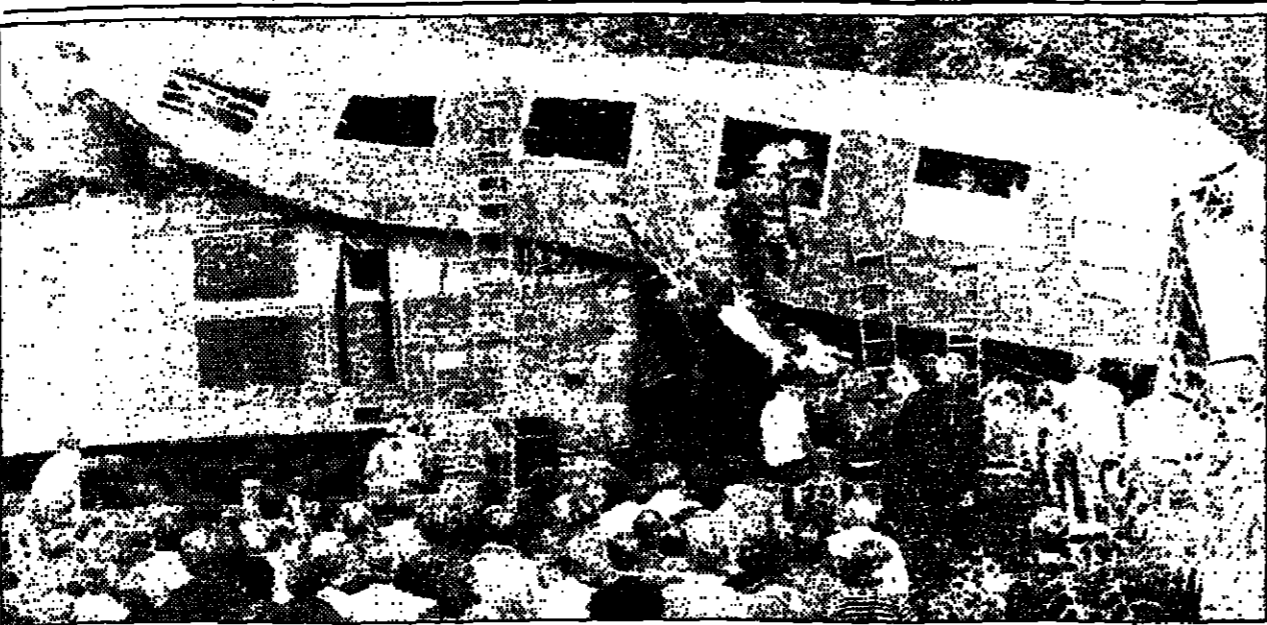
European Community moves into the final third stage of full economic and monetary union. However, it backs away from the calls in the Delors report last year for tough EC rules binding member states' national budgets.

The paper is also expected to give full backing to the wider use of the ecu as a currency unit by banks and markets.

But the commission offers no encouragement for Brit-

ain's alternative proposal for a hard ecu. The proposal will be discussed by the EC monetary committee, comprising finance ministry and central bank officials, from the Twelve, on September 4, just before the informal meeting of finance ministers.

The commission says the EC should consider setting up a central bank in 1993, at the start of the single market. This would mark the beginning of the second stage of EMU.



Polish rescue workers searching for survivors amid the wreckage of a Prague-Warsaw express train in which 15 people were killed and 57 injured when it crashed into the back of a slower train near Warsaw yesterday

Georgian nationalists stand to benefit from new electoral law

FROM NICK WORRALL IN TBILISI

NATIONALISTS in Soviet Georgia have moved a step nearer to winning a substantial parliamentary majority over the Communists in the republic's first multi-party elections on October 28.

After many attempts by the present parliamentary chairman, the Communist first party secretary, Givi Gumbaridze, to delay the vote, a new electoral law gives the advantage to the nationalist movement, even though it remains deeply divided. The law allows for a parliament of 250 deputies, half chosen by direct election and half by

proportional representation. Candidates must have lived in the republic for 10 years and not be members of the Soviet armed forces. The language of debate will be Georgian.

There were scenes of near-hysteria in Tbilisi's broad Rustaveli Avenue on Saturday night, when it seemed as if Mr Gumbaridze's delaying tactics might have paid off and given the Communist party the advantage.

The veteran nationalist leader, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who had been invited to contribute to the debate, led a walk-out of nationalists, caus-

ing crowds outside to shout for a general strike and the immediate resignation of Mr Gumbaridze.

"Gumbaridze's behaviour was very, very bad," Mr Gamsakhurdia said later. "He had rejected all our proposals, he seemed to be on the phone to Moscow every 15 minutes seeking fresh instructions and angling to get his deputies to force through his proposals."

The new law was decided on by an unpublished majority vote after Mr Gumbaridze, who was shaken by the public reaction, resumed the debate.

Why black kills black

R.W. Johnson

Durban Last week more than 240 people were killed in ethnic-political violence in the Johannesburg area — nearly four times as many as died at Sharpeville — and more than 50 others died in the eastern Cape. The pace of political change since February is breathtaking, and largely positive, but right across the spectrum South Africans are now deeply scared that February's brave breakout towards a post-apartheid future could be overtaken and engulfed by a spreading wave of violence.

The violence has many causes. The African National Congress line is that Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha movement, which is almost exclusively Zulu, is deliberately attacking ANC supporters with the connivance of the police. This line should not be wholly discounted, but it should not be taken too seriously either. In its favour is the fact that Buthelezi resents his present exclusion from the ANC government negotiations on a new constitution which are now quietly going on. The violence makes everyone realise that to leave him out means trouble. It is also a fact that in past incidents in Natal, at least some elements in the police clearly helped stir things up and then sided with Inkatha.

But that is as far as it goes. There is no evidence that either Buthelezi or the police are behind the latest upsurge of violence. For a start, the eastern Cape is a Xhosa area dominated by the ANC, and Inkatha has no presence at all. At least some of the blame for the 50 deaths there last week has to fall on ANC youths who took violent exception to their headmaster belonging to a sports association of which they disapproved. But it would be absurd to blame the ANC itself, as it would be wrong to blame Zulu violence in Soweto on Inkatha. Buthelezi simply does not possess — certainly not on the Witwatersrand — the organisation that might allow him to order Zulus into battle. After Nelson Mandela drew an 80,000 crowd in Soweto in March, Buthelezi tried to match the feat and pulled in only 4,000.

The attempt to explain the violence as an Inkatha-police plot has other flaws. One is that there can be few less envious jobs anywhere than having to stand between thousands of rampaging Zulus and their foes, particularly when both sides have acquired guns. This is what the (predominantly black) police currently have to do — for low pay and under an intense international spotlight and a hail of criticism. Already this year 42 policemen have been killed and hundreds injured. Without doubt there are undisciplined right-wing elements within the police, but the idea that the police have an interest in stoking up or keeping going the sort of violence seen recently seems

absurd. Buthelezi has loudly and publicly deplored the violence at every stage and repeatedly asked for a meeting with Nelson Mandela to bring it under control. It is the ANC which refuses such a meeting — not on principle, for it agrees there must be a Mandela-Buthelezi meeting eventually, but only on its terms and at a time of the ANC's choosing. This is a strange position to cling to when you know that every day wasted means more lives lost.

Zulu feeling seems to have been inflamed by several factors. One of the motifs of the violence in Natal has been Buthelezi's insistent view that the ANC, despite its support among younger and better educated Zulus, is an essentially Xhosa movement which is an interloper in "his" territory. Despite the ANC's indignant disclaimers, many Zulus now accept this view, for most of the ANC leaders are indeed Xhosa. There is a problem, too, over the ANC demand for the KwaZulu homeland to be broken up and its police force disbanded. While this is in line with standard ANC anti-homeland policy, it is noticeable that the ANC is not making similar demands about the (Xhosa) Transkei and Ciskei.

Finally, the ANC's recent call for a national strike as a protest against Inkatha's role in the Natal violence was probably a misjudgment. The call was in the classic ANC style — a decision taken at the top which then had to be enforced on the ground without the benefit of well-developed mass structures of any kind. What this involved in practice was intimidation, by young "comrades", of those trying to go to work. In the Johannesburg area, Zulus determined to find work that they were willing to put up with the rigours of hostel life were less than thrilled to find themselves threatened. Similarly, ANC calls to isolate Inkatha have been interpreted by the young comrades as a licence to harass Zulus in their midst. This was to play with fire, as the resulting display of outraged Zulu manhood has shown. The Zulus are a minority on the Witwatersrand but nobody can stand against them: only Xhosa seem to have tried, and have lost.

A Mandela-Buthelezi meeting would so enrage the ANC's radical wing as to threaten ANC unity. But the alternative — for South Africa to slide into the abyss of tribal strife — is far worse. Mr Mandela must wish he had not given way to radical pressure to call off the meeting with Chief Buthelezi which he set up when he was released from prison in February. Not only are such talks inevitable in the end — just as talks between white and black were inevitable in the end — but the longer they are delayed the worse the situation will get. And South Africa cannot easily afford another week like the one it has just been through.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

D'YE KEN Jean-Paul? With his cotter gris?

"Twas the sound of his horn called me from my bed... Yesterday, and yesterday, and yesterday, to the first syllable of recorded holiday. Jean-Paul has crept in his petty pace from day to day, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing except that the road bends outside our Provencal door. For the bend is, as literally as a cliché ever gets, a red rag to a bull: when Jean-Paul spots a bend, he puts his head down, boots his cotter gris out of its petty pace, flares his electric nostrils so that the bellows echoes from hill to hill, and charges at it. As with all red rags, there is nothing on the other side, but, as with all bulls, Jean-Paul hasn't yet twigged this.

Nor is he alone: no Ferdinand he. At the break of day, if you will allow one more poetical conflation, a lowing herd winds slowly past my lit. They are all cotter gris, those grey 2CV tricycle-vans whose engines are based on the maracas principle: you put a lot of old bolts in a cocoa tin and, provided you shake them noisily enough, the wheels go round. I do not know how this works. I know only that it enables me to ken Jean-Paul when he's far, far away; so that when the break of day brings him to the bottom of the hill, I wake up, and when, five minutes later, he blows his horn at the bend, I am called from my bed, because there is no point lying there trying to kid yourself that there will not be another one along in a minute.

Nothing more separates our cultures than our hooter strategies. The French hooter to signal what might happen in the future, the British to signal what has happened in the past. The English hooter is a mechanical oath, expressing an opinion as to what another driver should not have done. The French hooter is a monitory cry, warning a driver of what he might be about to do. That is why they call them *avertisseurs*.

Since a French driver might be about to do anything at any time, the hooter is in constant use. Only this morning, I noticed that the Kwifit at Nice not only replaces exhausts, it re-

places *avertisseurs*, too. Has any English hooter ever worn out? It was not at all noticed. Driving up the hill from Nice to Venice, I passed a road-sign. It said *Ni Vitesse, Ni Bruit*. I did not pass it far. I pulled over. I stroked back, as one ravished by the view, a Midiphile looking now towards the sun-winking Med, now towards the soft ochre tumble of St Paul; someone to whom you would have to get very close in order to spot what was going on in the corners of those ostensibly beguiled eyes. The sign was fastened to its post by two nuts. The corners of the eyes grew wet beads.

I eased a spanner from the car's tool-kit. One nut came off as if it buttered. The sign hinged downward from the other, with a slight squeak. I quickly put my shoulder beneath it, to level it to inconspicuousness, at which moment a car came up the hill: leaving me no option but to turn my back, lower one arm, and offer the driver the sheepish smirk of the enuretic.

He disappeared over the crest. The second nut yielded. I walked back to my car like a man carrying a road-sign. An hour later, outside my house, a hitherto unofficial tree now made it illegal to speed or honk.

"What have you been doing?" said my wife.

"Oh, this and that," I said. The less she knew, the better. With both of us on Devil's Island, our kids would run amok. (Though, if apprehended, I plan to approach the French bench with that arcane Cricklewood law, *levi inervandun*, i.e., I have not broken the law, I have merely moved it somewhere else.) "What about you?"

"I've been reading Anthony West's biography of Wells," she replied. "Did you know that Wells built a house for his mistress Odette Keun just along our road, near Grasse? West says he used to infuriate the locals by driving everywhere with his thumb on the hooter. I wonder if that's where the French learnt it?"

I looked at the sky. I sipped my gin. They can be a curious shape, the things to come.

Conor Cruise O'Brien considers Saddam's downfall inevitable as outside pressure takes its toll

America leads: UN can only bless

There is much reference to "the role of the UN" in relation to the seizure of Kuwait. But "role" is a misnomer: the UN has no role because it is not an actor; it is a stage. This month the stage was used for the most effective performance yet: the enactment by consensus of drastic economic action against Iraq until it withdraws.

What happens then depends not upon the stage but on the actors: the major powers can enforce the sanctions they voted for or allow them to become a dead letter. In the past, permanent members of the Security Council have actually sabotaged resolutions for which they had voted: in the Congo crisis of 1961, the Security Council members sabotaged the implementation of a resolution prescribing international action against secessionist Katanga.

It is also possible for powers to use the UN stage to fake an action instead of performing as expected. Thus, when Ian Smith unilaterally declared independence for white Rhodesia, Harold Wilson wanted a respectable pretext for declining to use force. He found the pretext on the UN stage, by calling for oil

sanctions against Rhodesia, and loudly proclaiming that these would bring Smith to his knees. The Security Council duly voted for oil sanctions, which were immediately violated, mostly by Britain. Both superpowers have used the UN to distract attention, while climbing down. Eisenhower did this in 1956 over Hungary, Khrushchev in 1962 over Cuba.

Because the UN has so often been used in these ways, to dramatise political fictions, few people have much belief in it. This is especially so in the Middle East because of Israel's capacity to disregard UN resolutions. Most of the "United Nations resolutions" quoted by Arabs are really General Assembly resolutions (drafted by Arabs themselves) which are not binding on anyone, even nominally. That kind of distinction is, however, hardly perceptible in the bazaar. Arabs inevitably ask why Iraq is expected to obey UN resolutions while Israel is allowed to defy them.

It is against this background that we should see the American decision, supported by Britain and France, to send forces to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and to enforce

the sanctions against Iraq by interception and other means. These steps should be seen not as a departure from the measures agreed by the Security Council but as expressions of a determination to apply the sanctions until their objective is achieved.

In itself, voting for sanctions sent no clearly comprehensible message to Saddam Hussein and his entourage, but the American military build-up in Saudi Arabia, plus interceptions, sends a message that is altogether clear. The message is that strict enforcement of economic sanctions is the very least that Iraq can expect if it holds on to Kuwait. Strict enforcement, with the application of a blockade (though so far this is undeclared), means economic ruin for Iraq. This action, therefore, is very different from the Security Council sanctions against Rhodesia.

Economic ruin, then, is the minimum facing Iraq if Saddam Hussein remains in power and Iraq stays in Kuwait. But if Saddam were to decide to fight back, the prospects for Iraq would be worse still. If he were to execute American hostages or attack American forces or Israel, Iraq

would experience something not much short of annihilation.

Many Arabs probably believe Saddam when he claims he could defeat the Americans in war, but there is one pivotal group of Iraqis who certainly do not believe it and who have every interest in seeing that it is never put to the test. They are the army officers, professionals who know Saddam is talking dangerous nonsense and who now have clear incentives to destroy him. True, this is a daunting task, but the prospects for the Iraqi army, and Iraq as a whole, if Saddam remains in power are still more daunting.

Saddam has strengthened his position with the mass of his soldiery by emerging as the champion not of the Arab nation, but of Islam. Yet he must have damaged his standing with those soldiers by his wild talk about defeating America. Such language goes down well with civilian demonstrators in Amman, but hardly with those who would be in the front line.

That the Iraqi army now has clear incentives to destroy Saddam is the most encouraging aspect of this exceedingly dangerous situa-

tion. And these incentives were brought about not by the vote in the Security Council, but by the energetic action led by the United States to demonstrate that sanctions are being enforced.

Now that France has come into line over interception of shipping, China is unlikely to hold out much longer, since it needs to mend its fences with the West. This means that the Security Council should soon be ready to authorise a blockade.

Such authorisation is an important part of the business of the UN. For the UN is not only a stage but a shrine. Like the ancient shrine at Delphi, it is a place with an equivocal aura of holiness, to which mortals repair in times of emergency. It provides oracles, in the form of resolutions, to which the powerful pay selective attention. It dispenses, as required, blessings, curses, legitimisation, ambiguities — all to be manipulated. Today, it is important as a source of legitimacy: blessing America, cursing Iraq. But legitimisation should not be confused with leadership, or even with potential leadership. A stage is a stage, a shrine a shrine.

The human shield that puts Saddam beyond the pale

Hostages have been taken in time of war — and as guarantors of peace — since time immemorial. The Romans held foreign princes as hostages to deter their fathers from misbehaving. The hostage was for centuries an established (even civilised) means of guaranteeing compliance with treaties or agreements that were more or less freely entered into — a tradition which effectively lasted until 1748, when the Earl of Suffolk and Lord Cathcart voluntarily went to France as hostages under the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle until Cape Breton was handed back to the French.

The British themselves took hostages less than a century ago, when Lord Roberts wanted to deter Boer partisans from disrupting his supplies. Yet Saddam Hussein has outraged the world by using civilians from western countries to protect military targets from possible American attack.

President Bush and Mrs Thatcher can now forestall domestic opposition to military intervention by pointing to Iraq's violation of rights enshrined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Nothing could be better calculated to prick the liberal conscience than the prospect of women cold-bloodedly put in danger by being moved to strategic sites, or of infants starving to death.

When did the nature of the hostage change? Hostages had barely ceased to play a part in the conventions of European diplomacy before they became a tactic of terror during the French Revolution. When the counter-revolutionary rising took place in the Vendée, the authorities passed a "law of hostages" which legitimised the detention of the families of émigrés, and their deportation in reprisal for the killing of government troops. It was generally unsuccessful, even when practised by Napoleon.

With the advent of industrialised, "total" war (around 1870), this use of hostages became more common. During the Franco-Prussian war, the Germans treated partisans as hostages, putting them on trains to deter ambushes. But the French revolutionaries of the Paris Commune were no less ruthless: they executed the archbishop of Paris and other digni-

Daniel Johnson traces hostage-taking through the ages — from voluntary treaty guarantors to tactic of terror



ties, who had not volunteered to be hostages, merely because the Thiers government refused their terms.

The Germans used hostages again in both world wars, executing many. The Hague conferences of 1899 and 1907 did not specifically allude to hostage-taking, but at the Nuremberg tribunals, those who had executed hostages were treated as war criminals. Only at Geneva in 1949 were reprisals against hostages forbidden, and the strict rules then introduced under which foreign nationals may be detained in wartime explicitly outlawed Saddam's stated plan to surround military bases and strategic industries with hostages.

The trouble with applying this body of precedent to the Middle East is that many Muslims do not regard European history, and the international law to which it gave rise, as relevant to their customary treatment of civilians in wartime.

least of all to the treatment of non-Muslim hostages. The Koran is open to more than one interpretation on this subject, and in any case its doctrines have in practice been no more rigorously observed by Muslim rulers than have biblical precepts by their Christian counterparts.

The plight of the hostages now held in Iraq, as of many other westerners held by Arab governments or their proxies in recent decades, resembles in some respects that of the European Christians captured by Muslim rulers and semi-official pirates as recently as the early 19th century. For centuries it had been common for the Mamelukes and Ottomans to treat subject Christians as actual or potential slaves, even though Muslims accept that, like themselves, Christians are "the people of the Book". If the Muslim subject had very few rights as a human being, the infidel had still fewer, and the

infidel subject of an enemy ruler none whatsoever.

Western opinion, which had been unconcerned about oriental Christians, was roused to action only by the ransoming or enslavement of Christians captured off the Barbary coast. Nelson wanted to use his fleet to crush the corsairs, but the practice was not finally stopped until 1815, when an American expeditionary force led by Stephen Decatur forced the bays of Algiers and Tripoli to cease their piracy and release their prisoners.

So when Ayatollah Khomeini seized American hostages in Iran, he was acting in accordance with tradition and, moreover, avenging past humiliations. His real purpose was to exploit the power of television to influence democratic politicians in America. As a senior Shia theologian, he could at least claim scriptural support for his conduct. Saddam Hussein has made no such attempt.

Yet discounting all cultural factors, Saddam's cynical calculation — which differs only in degree from Khomeini's — cannot be conceded. It is based on the absurd notion that an innocent party can be made responsible for the evil consequences of another's evil actions. This is the proposition that Mr Bush and Mrs Thatcher are being invited to assent to, and to which Jimmy Carter by implication did assent: "Unless you do as I say, I will kill X. Hence if you do not obey, you will be responsible for X's death."

There is a danger that the tendency of Americans and West Europeans to blame themselves — will eventually reassert itself, unless their leaders take decisive action to deal with Iraq. An embryonic peace party is already visible in Britain, even before the first shot has been fired in anger. Self-appointed British Muslim leaders, from the pre-Imam Kalim Siddiqui to the converted former pop star Yusuf Islam, are aligned with anti-Americans from Tony Benn to Enoch Powell in a coalition which could quickly be reinforced once blood is spilt. The hostages will play a central part in all propaganda aimed at saving Iraq from suffering the consequences of Saddam's incursion into Kuwait.

Under these difficult circumstances, the message which Western leaders must communicate to their peoples is that an enemy incapable of treating hostages even as though they were prisoners of war has no place in civilised company. Mrs Thatcher in particular, with her strong convictions from Judeo-Christian ethics, is well placed to make the case that there must be no reprieve for Saddam. He has gone too far.

Muslims who are ready to abandon old attitudes towards the lives of Christians deserve the greatest respect, for the appeal of Islamic fundamentalism is not easy to resist. But from those who profess to speak for Muslim moderates, both in this country and in the Middle East, a clear condemnation of the Iraqi treatment of hostages is the least that should be expected. Though the Western prohibition of reprisals against hostages is comparatively recent, the Muslim world has been slow to appropriate it.

Back on a wing and a prayer

While everyone in Kuwait is trying desperately to escape, the Venerable Michael Mansbridge, archdeacon of the Gulf, is doing his best to get back to be with his flock.

Mansbridge and his wife Fiona were on holiday in Britain when they heard of the invasion, but they had no hesitation in deciding to return, in the belief that whatever the danger, their presence was more necessary than ever. "We are hosts to 22 other churches, so we have wide ecumenical responsibilities and people of many different backgrounds come to us for help in a crisis," says Mansbridge.

Speaking from Abu Dhabi, which is as far as he has got, the archdeacon says: "We feel considerable loyalty to the Kuwaiti government. It has been very generous to the church. I won't say people are not apprehensive, but we are all praying and hoping."

Many of their prayers are being said for the Rev Michael Jones and his wife, Jean, from St Paul's Church, Ahmadi in Kuwait. Nothing has been heard of them since the Iraqis moved in, although a letter from them arrived at Mansbridge's English holiday home on the morning of the invasion. "They were getting ready to leave Kuwait after seven years, but are stuck there — or in Baghdad. They may have been taken there with the British contingent. If so, they won't beat a loss: Michael has often taken holy communion at St George's in Baghdad."

First prize in the Friends of the Earth's summer fund-raising raffle will take the lucky winner on a "Middle East adventure". The group is already tiring of suggestions that the second prize should consist of two such adventures.

Revolving door

Businessmen and holiday-makers who rely on the annual *Good Hotel Guide* published by the Consumers Association must brace themselves for an element of confusion over advice on where to lay their heads. Hilary Rubinstein, the guide's creator and editor, and the CA have parted company on less than friendly terms, and in future there will be two rival guides. The original Rubinstein version, recommending establishments throughout Europe, will be published by Macmillan next month, to be followed by the Consumers Association volume, covering only British hotels.

Rubinstein, who started the guide in 1978, is furious with the association's decision to produce a rival. He says the CA originally asked him to sell the copyright of the guide and continue for two years as editor. "I did not care for their offer and made other publishing arrangements."

But Patricia Yates, editor of the rival, to be known as *The Which? Hotel Guide* and sold by mail order — is unrepentant. "We thought we could use our resources more effectively," she says. "All 700 hotels in our guide have been inspected by our own professional staff."

Rubinstein seems ready to apply whatever sanctions he can;



DIARY

"I believe they have committed a hostile act," he says. "They have invaded my territory. It's a bit like Saddam Hussein going into Kuwait."

The managing director of The Catholic Herald has advertised in his own newspaper for secretary. Short-hand and typing are required skills, along with an ability to add. But it is sensible to head the advert "Do you believe in Purgatory?"

Dad keeps mum

Breakfast in the Bernard Ingham household is a strangely muted affair these days. At least it has been since Ingham's only child, John, moved temporarily back to the family home in Surrey.

Ingham, head of the government information service, is Mrs Thatcher's unofficial voice and has been nicknamed by many the deputy prime minister. That makes life awkward, since Ingham junior, after working at the Manchester office of the *Daily Express*, is now its diplomatic and defence correspondent in London. John, who will attend his

father's off-the-record lobby briefings, insists that he is not taking advantage of his father's position at the heart of government to scoop his rivals. But do lobby rules apply at the breakfast table? "My father is scrupulously fair," he says. "He never tells me anything."

Paws for nostalgia

Two of the best-known stars in cinema history will be reunited for the first time in nearly 60 years when Fay Wray visits London next month. The American actress made 77 films between 1925 and 1958, but will always be remembered as the woman who survived the clutches



of King Kong on top of New York's Empire State Building. Now an elegant, youthful 82, Miss Wray is coming to London to promote her autobiography, *On the Other Hand*. In between book-signing sessions, television interviews and a lecture at the National

Film Theatre, she will meet her old admirer at the Museum of the Moving Image on London's South Bank. The original of the monster which held her in his paws stands no more than 18 inches high and holds pride of place at the museum. There is also a 5ft version of King Kong, standing defiantly atop the Empire State Building with a model Miss Wray perched in his paw. "It's terribly exciting," says a spokeswoman. "This is the first time they have met since the film."

Miss Wray plans another nostalgic trip a little nearer home. A photocall has been arranged at the Empire State Building, which she last saw in 1934, the year after *King Kong* was made.

Just a stroll

Lord Denning, embroiled in controversy over the Guildford Four, is about to launch himself into another dispute. This time the former Master of the Rolls will not be taking on ex-cabinet ministers, such as Sir Leon Brittan, but Hampshire county council. A tireless campaigner on local countryside issues, he is supporting the 180 villagers of Lasham, near Alton, in their fight to stop the council turning a picturesque footpath into a road. The villagers could not afford a solicitor and turned for help to Denning, who lives nearby and has taken on the planners in the past over similar issues. Does he expect his latest venture to land him in further controversy? "I am always getting into hot water, even boiling water, but this should be only lukewarm," he says.



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A MIGHTY UNDERTAKING

President Saddam Hussein's grip on his own country has so long been maintained by terror that he may have calculated external reaction to his hostage-taking of foreign civilians in the same terms. His technique for silencing domestic dissent has been simple: merciless destruction of opponents and potential rivals, material favours for the unquestioningly subservient, and networks of informers to control both. By singling out nationals of a handful of Western countries for deportation to military targets, and releasing those of some others, he may have expected Western respect for human life and individual rights to work in his favour, undermining a hitherto remarkably united response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The messages now reaching him from Baltimore, London and Paris should convince even Saddam that he has again misjudged the international mood, reinforced the consensus he had sought to weaken by fear, and brought the alliance ranged against him closer to military action. France, which had previously declined to join Britain and America in military enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, has ordered its navy to participate. Mrs Thatcher has convened the British war cabinet in urgent session and Douglas Hurd, while carefully restating Britain's determination to deter an attack on Saudi Arabia and to make sanctions effective, has not ruled out "further measures". And President Bush, who yesterday for the first time described the Americans in Iraq and Kuwait as "hostages", told applauding American war veterans that America refused to be intimidated.

Mr Bush has now warned his countrymen in the gravest tones that aggression must be checked and "evil" confronted — a task involving not only patience and careful planning, but "personal sacrifice". American forces would, he said, be given "whatever it takes to help them complete their mission". He could have given no clearer indication that Saddam's resort to blackmail has rendered unrealistic the policy of waiting for economic

sanctions against Iraq to bite, building up deterrence and keeping American powder dry. By evoking Eisenhower's address to Allied troops before the Normandy invasion, that "great and mighty undertaking", he has also served notice that if military action is unavoidable, there will be no half-measures.

The American president has repeated his demand for the release of all foreigners, and formally held the Iraqi government responsible for the safety and wellbeing of American citizens. Saddam is continuing to deport them from Kuwait to Iraq, along with more than a hundred Britons and a smaller number of French and West Germans, and has compounded fears for their safety by confirming that they have been moved to military targets and announcing that diplomats of countries which do not close their embassies in Kuwait by Friday will lose their immunity. Powerless to protect civilians, they would then themselves be hostages.

Mr Bush is rightly still determined to act if at all possible in concert not only with America's Arab and Western allies, but with the agreement and even active support of the Soviet Union, to whose role in the fight against Hitler he referred. The initial coalition defending Saudi Arabia is not only holding firm, it now extends to other threatened states in the Gulf. But the Soviet Union continues to make support for military action conditional on UN authorisation.

That must be urgently sought, if necessary by convening a meeting of the foreign ministers of the five permanent members. Iraq has, as Mr Bush said yesterday, launched "a ruthless assault on the very essence of international order". The UN, symbol of that order, has very little time left to align itself unequivocally against aggression by sanctioning the use of force. Saddam has spurned every UN resolution, and multiplied his violations of international law. If force has to be used, as is increasingly hard to avoid, diplomacy should be seen not as an alternative but as its adjunct.

SENTENCING VIOLENCE

The approach of the Conservative party conference rather than some new penal insight no doubt explains the announcement yesterday by Home Office minister John Patten that the government is to get tough with persistent violent and sex offenders. He proposed that their sentences should be lengthened specifically to protect the public in the future, overriding the common and fair assumption that the punishment should reflect only the severity of the crime itself.

Violent and sexual crimes are to be exempt from the principle of proportionality in sentencing that is to be contained in the new Criminal Justice Bill to be presented to the next session of Parliament. That was first said in the white paper published in February, so all Mr Patten did yesterday is to announce that he has accepted his own advice. He felt the need for a timely piece of news management, dressing up the bill as a crackdown on the most frightening kind of criminal behaviour when in fact the principal (and welcome) effect of the bill will be to encourage fewer and lighter prison sentences for non-violent crimes. He has his reasons.

The Home Office needs no persuading that too many criminals are being sent to prison for too long, but that is not the sort of proposition that wins standing ovations from the Tory faithful. The government's political difficulties in this area are real enough. Public opinion, alarmed by repeated announcements that recorded crime has risen yet again, is still in a punitive mood towards the criminal, still sees a heavy sentence as the best deterrent. The public has been slow to understand that prisons are colleges of crime, and that bad and overcrowded prisons, of which Britain has too many, degrade and brutalise their inmates.

That makes them even less fit (and therefore less likely) to lead a productive and law-abiding life when they leave. The wide

discretion judges now enjoy in sentencing will be somewhat limited by the Criminal Justice Bill. It is limited already, in effect, by the right to appeal against a sentence which is out of line with normal custom. But the criteria applied by judges and by the Court of Appeal have been implicit and undeclared.

The clear implication of February's white paper was that the government is not happy with the way the judges have been using their sentencing discretion. Prison sentences have been on average longer than they needed to be; judges have failed to make sufficient use of the many alternatives to prison with which in recent years the law has equipped them. So the Criminal Justice Bill will lay down the principles of sentencing which judges should follow, in the knowledge that if they do not apply them, the Court of Appeal will.

One of the underlying principles they will have to bear in mind is that any conviction dealt with by a court previously has already been punished by the previous sentence, and the individual should not be punished twice by the imposition of a lengthier prison term than his crime deserves. Mr Patten, following the white paper, proposes that violent and sexual crime should be an exception to this principle, on the grounds that some criminals must be taken out of circulation not just because of what they have done in the past but also because of what they might do in the future. When imposing this extra sentence, judges will have to say so.

If this power is not to be an invitation to injustice it will need to be most carefully defined in the bill and even more carefully supervised by the Court of Appeal. Such an exception may be the necessary price Mr Patten has to pay for the political acceptance of his otherwise enlightened sentencing reforms; but he would have been wiser not to make a virtue out of necessity.

STRICTLY EDUCATIONAL

Sir Claus Moser, president of the British Association and former head of the government's statistical services, has made as all-embracing a declaration on the state of British education as has been heard for many a day. This country, he stated in his presidential address yesterday, is "in danger of becoming one of the least adequately educated of all the advanced nations". He produced much familiar and uncontested evidence to make his case, from the high number of children leaving full-time education at 16 to dissatisfaction with the way basic subjects are taught and the poor quality of teachers.

Sir Claus is made "sad and angry" by the "poor educational paths experienced by the majority of our children". Few would disagree with his sentiment. But he also advances a more contentious thesis. He suspects that "at root, Britain... does not care as much about education as other countries". Here he is surely wrong. How children should be educated has been an issue of hot and constant debate since the war.

It began with the postwar establishment by R. A. Butler of a secondary school system which was available to all, regardless of means and including a grammar school element which led potentially to university and professional status. That system, though at first lauded, was then stigmatised as socially unfair and divisive and from the Sixties onwards, it was steadily replaced by comprehensive secondary schools. New attitudes to teaching in both primary and secondary schools were also devised which diminished the emphasis on formal learning.

These educational fashions did not deliver the goods. They were increasingly criticised for producing too many ill-educated children lacking the basic standards of literacy and numeracy. In the last decade, successive education secretaries have therefore tried to rescue educational standards, but their remedies have often been resisted by the educa-

tionalists (and sociologists), in and beyond Whitehall, who dominate attitudes towards teaching.

The latest stage in this process has been the government's introduction of the national curriculum designed to see that every child pursues certain basic subjects and has his attainment regularly tested. In the hands of the educational establishment, however, the national curriculum was applied with so much self-destructive detail as to alarm even Mrs Thatcher, who had fervently supported it. For the education secretary John MacGregor, the national curriculum was made an uphill task.

In short, it is not so much lack of interest, thought or funds, as Sir Claus suggests, which has bedevilled British education, as the deep doctrinal divisions in Britain about education's social purpose. It is not that people do not care about education or that (as Sir Claus oddly thinks) that it is in thrall to social attitudes ingrained in Whig England. It is that education has become a political battleground.

Another main theme of Sir Claus's address was the diminished status of social scientists now. For this he holds the government largely responsible, though he also admits that social scientists, in their respected, postwar "golden years," may have "over-estimated their problem-solving capacity". He laments the present government's reduction of economists and other social scientists since the Rayner review of 1980. Yet it was from the social engineering ambitions fashionable among sociologists that many of education's problems have flowed.

Sir Claus recommends a Royal Commission on education (or at least a prime minister's committee) which could produce something analogous to the Robbins report. Royal Commissions, however, are as useful for shelving as for solving problems. The real need is for all concerned with education to put their sociology aside, adopting standards which are strictly educational.

UN role in sanctions against Iraq

From Dr Vera Gowlland

Sir, There is useful precedent for the debate on the legality of "blockade" as distinct from "embargo". When, in April 1966, the UK was faced with the necessity of taking similar action to interdict foreign tankers heading towards Beira (the then Portuguese port of Mozambique) with oil destined for Southern Rhodesia in contravention of the Security Council in November 1965, Lord Caradon (Britain's UN representative) had stated that a resolution from the council was essential

to enable the United Kingdom to take within the law all steps, including the use of force as the situation may demand, to stop the arrival at Beira of ships taking oil to the rebel regime... Without the authority of the Security Council... the United Kingdom Government has to face defiance of the United Nations with its hands tied.

It is even more illuminating to quote the solemn words of Mr Goldberg, then US representative, who had declared:

What the United Kingdom is asking for... is one of the gravest and most far-reaching proposals that has been made to this Council... The question of intercepting vessels on the high seas, the question of arresting and detaining them, is a matter that has a long history in the field of international law... We are asked in the Security Council... to put our sanction upon what will be a rule of international law — that when this Council acts, vessels on the high seas can be arrested and detained in the interest of the international law which we will be making here today.

This led to the adoption by the council of the so-called Beira resolution which specifically authorized the UK to prevent, by the use of force if necessary, vessels

attempting to break the oil embargo.

Yours sincerely,
VERA GOWLLAND,
10c chemin Rojoux,
1231 Conches,
Geneva, Switzerland.
August 17.

From Professor H. W. Singer
Sir, We all welcome the revived role of a reinvigorated United Nations in the peace-keeping process in the Gulf crisis. There is now strong interest in a revival of the Military Staff Committee as part of the Security Council mechanism, as envisaged in the UN Charter. The creation of a UN naval force is now talked about — taking up a proposal made four years ago by the Russians during the Iran-Iraq war.

Perhaps this is the time to point out the need for complementary action on the economic side — to equip the UN also with a financial arm, to compensate countries for losses suffered as a result of complying with their sanctions obligations, or possibly as unintended victims of a blockade.

In fact it was foreseen that the UN should be given a soft-aid fund to be administered under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc). This proposal, after a special United Nations fund for economic development (Sunfed) was duly elaborated in the 1950s, but in the atmosphere of the McCarthy years in the US it did not stand any chance of implementation. Has the time come now to reconsider?

Yours,
H. W. SINGER,
The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex,
Brighton, East Sussex.
August 17.

Palestinian education

From the Chairman of Unpal and others

Sir, The forcible closure by the Israeli authorities of educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is causing great and justifiable bitterness. All six Palestinian universities have been closed for nearly three years, and most colleges of higher education. Since the 18-month-long total closure of West Bank schools and the effective closure of those in the Gaza Strip, through continuing prolonged curfews many individual schools in both areas have been similarly prevented from functioning.

We have just learnt, for instance, that five schools in Tulkerem refugee camp (West Bank), closed by military order from February 11 to May 22 and during several curfews in June, were due to open on July 10 for a month, to make up during the school holidays for some of the time lost. The Israeli authorities demanded, however, that the schools should be closed again from July 2, and warned UNRWA (the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees), which runs them, that they would fore-

ibly prevent the schools from reopening.

Such actions, as well as a ban on organised alternative teaching, can only suggest that the Israeli government is using the denial of the human right to education with its consequent imposition of ignorance as a collective punishment to suppress the natural resentment of the Palestinian people after years of military occupation. The damaging effect will be felt by children and young people far into the future. They know this as well as their elders and it increases their anger.

We trust that the strongest possible remonstrations on this matter will be made by individuals, HM Government, and the governments of the European Community to the Israeli government, in support of those made by UNRWA.

Yours sincerely,
BASIL HEMBRY, Chairman,
Unpal (Universities' Educational Fund for Palestinian Refugees),
RICHARD PHILLIPS (Director),
ELEANOR AITKEN
(Founder trustee),
ADRIAN,
DOROTHY HODGKIN,
MARY WARD,
12 Helen Road, Oxford.
August 14.

London's vacant see

From Mr Brian P. Price

Sir, Prebendary Barnes (August 11) states that it is increasingly difficult to find churches where the authorised services of the (Anglican) Church are being used within the London diocese. I find this surprising. Authorised services are indicated in the third sentence of the preface to the Alternative Service Book: "The ASB, as its name implies, is intended to supplement the Book of Common Prayer, not to supersede it".

In my experience, the BCP is possibly used more in London diocese than elsewhere. In other dioceses, where liberal and Evangelical notions have sway over the traditional, main Sunday services are predominantly ASB whilst BCP has virtually disappeared: the congregations may then be more worryingly low than even those in London diocese.

Liturgical ideas and practices in London may be in the geographical minority, but they are authorised and could be adopted to advantage elsewhere, if the trends in Church attendance

(which the introduction of the ASB was supposed to stem but manifestly has not) are to be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN P. PRICE,
Falstaff Cottage,
Barrow Green Road,
Oxford, Surrey.
August 12.

From the Bishop of Fulham

Sir, My work takes me to many different parish churches in this diocese and I therefore have more opportunities of observing them than does Mr Barnes.

In my experience their effectiveness or otherwise depends not on the bishop of the diocese, the tradition of churchmanship or the rite used, but on the character of the pastor. The many gifted ones I come across are not usually the sort of people who would write unkind letters about a bishop who serves the Lord and his people with distinction and devotion.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FULHAM,
4 Cambridge Place, W8.
August 15.

School sport

From Mr Colin del Strother

Sir, I agree with Sir Roger Bannister (August 7) that as many children as possible should maintain a habit of sport and exercise into adult life. But from personal experience I feel compulsory school sport sometimes has the opposite result.

Probably as a result of the combination of short-sight, little natural coordination and a family where sport was not encouraged, I found compulsory school sport, coupled with public humiliation and the mockery of team-mates. This did not have the "confidence-building" effect such activities are meant to inspire.

For nearly 10 years after leaving

school I hardly spent any time in organised sport. About five years ago a friend introduced me to weight-training, which I quite enjoyed. This led me to try other physical activities such as rock-climbing and wrestling, which I would once never have contemplated.

I am left with two regrets — the years during which I could have enjoyed some sporting activity and did not, and the thought that these were the very years when I could have reached my peak possible level of performance. I doubt if more compulsory school sport would have helped.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. del STROTHER,
32a Dancer Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

From pillar to post

From the Rector of Odd Rode

Sir, When in my previous parish, we were told that we were no longer in Cheshire but in Greater Manchester. The Post Office asked us to continue to address our letters to Cheshire, as it was hard to cope with the new large county area although postcodes had been in use for some years.

Since then I have moved to south Cheshire, where the problem is reversed. Our postcode is S17 showing that letters come via Stoke-on-Trent. However, if we fail to put Stoke-on-Trent in the address, or worse, if we put Cheshire there, our post is delayed: envelopes are scrawled "Try Stoke-on-Trent" or some other insultingly "SOT".

Apart from the fact that I find it deeply offensive that I am not allowed to use the name of my natal county, it is also confusing. Stoke-on-Trent is classed as Midlands, which means that a well-known firm of ecclesiastical tailors from the West Country invites me to Birmingham (50 miles away), although it has a branch in Manchester (25 miles away); insurance companies class us as city-dwellers, but I live in a rectory surrounded by fields of cows, sheep, and potatoes. Those who put houses on the market find that prices are affected. And all because the Post Office won't use the postcode.

Steps to improve lawyers' efficiency

From the Treasurer of the Bar Council

Sir, Both branches of the legal profession are keen to implement the recommendations of the efficiency commission. There is thus no justification in your leading article of August 16, "A surfeit of lawyers", to use the words "glaring corrupt practices".

The Bar has been in the forefront of change in relation to the recommendations of the efficiency commission, many of which have emanated from initiatives of the Bar Council. The Bar Council changed its rules to allow junior counsel to appear unaided by a solicitor three years ago, well in advance of the subsequent recommendations of the efficiency commission.

The rule allowing QCs to appear alone had been promulgated by the Bar Council in the late 1970s but the restriction on barristers doing so in criminal legal aid cases was due, not to the Bar's rules, but to the wording of the criminal legal aid regulations. These were only amended by the Government in February 1989. It is worth recording that it is not uncommon for QCs to appear alone for the prosecution in criminal cases and also in civil cases.

QCs are only instructed in serious, complex or sensitive cases. If a junior barrister has already been instructed, worked on the case and formed a relationship of confidence with the client, it would be to the disadvantage of the client if the junior was dismissed when the QC was instructed. The solution is for cases suitable for a QC alone to be identified by the solicitor before he applies for legal aid, so that his application is for a QC alone.

It is of course important to ensure that there is a proper use of public money. At the same time, the interests of the legally-aided litigant must be safeguarded to avoid criminal legal aid becoming a second-class service.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY THORNTON,
Treasurer,
The Bar Council,
11 South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C1.

From Mr Jeremy Allen

Sir, Your leading article drew attention to the comparatively infrequent use made of the new

Business courses

From Dr Laurence Handley

Sir, Your article, "A question of degree" (Appointments, August 9), alleges that business school programmes are "based on functional specialisms" which tend to be "little more than collections of disparate inputs" from tutors whose backgrounds have been "confined" to their faculties.

This is certainly not the case at Ashridge, where our general management programmes, including our MBA (master's degree in business administration) programme, are issue-based and taught by interdisciplinary staff. These individuals have solid business experience and are not academics.

Neither can the charge that managers taking MBA degrees are

arrangements under which barristers may appear in the crown court with a solicitor's representative in attendance. However, your comment that "solicitors still regularly attend when they are not needed" takes far too simplistic an approach.

The proposals of the efficiency commission quite properly concentrated on ensuring that the interests of the defendant were paramount. So they recognise that a solicitor would be justified in attending court where the defendant is a person at risk (such as a juvenile, or a person with an inadequate knowledge of English); where the defendant was likely to receive a substantial sentence of imprisonment, or to receive an immediate sentence of imprisonment for the first time; where witnesses need to be marshalled; or where the barrister appearing was not the barrister originally instructed.

Proceedings in crown court are a very serious matter indeed and it would be quite wrong to expect defendants to be represented by a barrister who was not personally familiar with the case, without a representative from the solicitor's firm in attendance. The pressure on solicitors and their staff is such that they will not wish to attend cases unless they see the need to do so, especially as the legal aid allowances rarely cover the cost of attendance.

Late changes in the barrister instructed are far too frequent. The main reason for that is that the crown court, in its understandable determination to make the maximum use of judicial time, is reluctant to give fixed advance dates for hearings generally and refuses to do so in the smaller cases to which the new arrangements could apply. It is thus commonplace for barristers to find themselves instructed in two or more cases due to take place in different courts on the same day. There is little either branch of the profession can do about that; the remedy lies in the Lord Chancellor's Department's hands.

Yours etc.,
JEREMY ALLEN (Chairman, criminal law committee),
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, W.C2.
August 16.

often too young and inexperienced to be levelled at Ashridge. Our MBA is designed for people with more than five years' management experience and an average age of 34. We select managers who are destined to become future senior general managers, and not those "likely to take a seat on managing committees".

Finally, we reject the blanket allegation that business schools fail to listen to their clients. Our MBA is based on a major "live" project undertaken by managers on behalf of their companies and agreed in close consultation with the sponsoring company. It must fulfil a real business need.

Yours faithfully,
L. I. HANDY (Director),
Ashridge Management College,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire,
August 13.

NHS reforms

From Dr A. J. Seeley

Sir, Mrs Lucille Campey (August 10) doesn't seem to be able to answer Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites's question (July 31), GP budgets, although finite, will apparently be able to provide their patients with full and proper treatment with no question of patients not getting the treatment they need. Like most of the Government's propaganda on the reforms, principles are strong but details are scarce.

In negotiations with our regional health authority it has been made clear that the total amount of our budget would be exactly the same as the health service currently spends on our patients for the defined items covered within the budget.

For years our health authorities, faced with the need for treatment outstripping their budgets, have looked for efficiency savings or, failing those, to restrict the service. Rationing is produced by generating waiting lists, closing beds and so on.

Budget-holding arrangements will mean that waiting lists will be moved from health authorities to the GP's desk. The hapless budget-holding GP will no doubt then be accused of being inefficient.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. SEELEY,
Bridgwater Medical Practices,
Norbridge House,
7 High Street,
Bridgton, Shropshire.

Efta admissions to EC

From Lord Cockfield

Sir, I have never at any time expressed views on the admission of Efta countries to the European Community of the kind attributed to me by Mr Coleman (August 18); nor by any stretch of the imagination can my speech in the House of Lords (report, June 23) bear the interpretation that Mr Coleman tries to put upon it.

On the contrary, in that speech I clearly and strongly supported Austria's application to join the Community. Equally, if other Efta members applied to join, I would support them also.

The simple truth, however, of which Mr Coleman seems to be unaware, is that at present no other Efta member has applied to join, and that stems from domestic considerations of their own. Mr Coleman says that he "fails to understand". That, I think, is the clearest possible verdict on his opinions.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL ELBOURNE,
Odd Rode Rectory,
Church Lane,
Scholar Green, Cheshire.

Spelling it out

From Mr A. D. Roper

Sir, The letter from Mr K. A. Yeomans (August 15) mentioning your leading article of August 10 appears to contain an assumption that bad spelling is always the result of poor memory or even mild dyslexia. I would suggest that in many cases it is more fundamental than this. The key to good spelling is not simply a matter of memory but correct education in both the construction and derivation of words. Spelling should not be taught simply as a memory exercise.

In view of the very clearly perceivable large numbers of school leavers now lacking in basic literacy skills it really is time that the schools returned to the correct priorities and teaching methods.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN D. ROOPER,
88 Marshals Drive,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Slow learners?

From Mr J. N. Farnon

Sir, Whenever I see government ministers on television working at their office desks they always seem to be using pen and paper.

Do they not have computers or word processors or do they just not know how to use them?

Yours faithfully,
J. N. FARNON,
1 Denham Hall, Denham,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

The fine gauge of classic taste

The polo shirt from the Peak District was neglected for too long. Now, Liz Smith reports, the world cannot get enough of the 'Smedley'

Mention the name John Smedley and some people get misty-eyed. There is a tactile pleasure in wearing one of Smedley's fine-gauge sea-island cotton or merino wool sweaters and a feeling of real quality.

The odd thing about the craze for the Derbyshire company's finely knitted polo shirts and rollneck sweaters is that only five years ago demand for such traditional designs had shrunk to the point that there were murmurs in the Matlock boardroom of discontinuing the classics in favour of jazzier jerseys with golfers or fishermen emblazoned on the front. The company not only rode the tide, but soon discovered that fashion's next wave swept them back into vogue, giving them virtual monopoly of production of the top quality polo shirts for which the world was clamouring.

The three-button sea-island cotton polo shirts that Paul Smith's trendsetting customers slip under their unstructured suits are made by Smedley. Fine wool turtlenecks sporting the Hermès label are dispatched from one of Smedley's three Peak District factories to Paris, and the sleek merino wool mock-turtleneck sweater displayed under one of Ralph Lauren's tweed hacking jackets in his Madison Avenue shop is also made by Smedley. When Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons turned up from Tokyo to go through the company's archives in Lee Mills, outside Matlock, she picked out vintage designs of John Smedley vests and combinations to be remade for her own collection.

While it discreetly satisfies the demands of top designers, sales of the company's own-label knitwear are booming. A new generation has discovered a cracking good polo shirt that sells in all the best fashion shops, such as Woodhouse for men or Whistles for women. So just as they called that alligator-decorated short-sleeved piqué polo shirt their Lacoste and wore it with their Nikes and Levis, they now wear their Smedleys. The ultimate accolade, however, is that from October The Conran Shop, second only to the Design Museum as Sir Terence Conran's temple to contemporary design, is to be a showcase for a line of basic Smedley sweaters in black, white and ecru sea-island cotton.

"Smedley", the generic word, is now accepted to mean the company's three-button polo style which, at £35 in sea-island cotton or just under £50 in wool, is not cheap. A tour of the Smedley factory explains why.

In the warren of buildings that has grown up around the original 1784 stone mill, every process in the creation of the Smedley is carried out to scrupulous standards. There are state-of-the-art machines that have perfected the skills of dyeing, scouring, drawing, combing, spinning, milling and twisting the finest raw materials



Simply the best: Smedley polo and roll-neck styles look good on men and women and have the timeless quality of authentic classics

into bobbins of fine top-dyed (dyeing in the wool stage) worsted yarn. There are other machines that knit, with "tickler" needles operating the all-important fully fashioned (rather than cut-and-sew) shaping at the shoulders. Every sweater is steam-pressed on flat hardwood body shapes, pressed again, and then hand-pressed a third time with an old-fashioned heavy iron. Teams of seamstresses finish each sweater by hand. Cotton sweaters are piece-dyed in finished knitted sections for even colour. Long sleeves, which tend to get knotted up in the machines, are dyed separately.

To appreciate the challenge of producing as fine a sweater as a "Smedley", the pink polo style worn here (£56 in botany wool) under a cashmere and wool tweed jacket (£336 from Margaret Howell in Beauchamp Place, SW3), or

the olive botany wool roll-neck (£52.50), you must understand gauge numbers. They indicate the number of "needles" used in knitting each square inch. A chunky Shetland jersey, for example, is worked on a nine gauge machine, a lambswool jersey usually on 15, sometimes on 21. Smedley claims it is the only company to attempt anything finer. Its polo shirts start at a sleek 24 gauge quality, and some vests or sea-island sweaters at an even finer 30 gauge.

Graeme Robinson, Smedley's marketing manager, explains the pitfalls in producing sweaters of this quality at the rate of 12,000 a week. The company makes 10 per cent more than is ordered to allow for the quirks and flaws that are inevitable, even with a highly skilled workforce. "Most knitting companies give up. We just stick

at it for 200 years," he says. The Smedley story started in 1784 when John Smedley, in partnership with Peter Nightingale (great-uncle of Florence Nightingale) and inspired by Sir Richard Arkwright's pioneering water-powered factory at Cromford, built a spinning mill at Lea Bridge, a few miles up the valley. By the end of the 18th century, and by then on his own, he extended the business to knitting hosiery. It remains a family business. Today's chairman, Andrew Marsden Smedley, is the sixth generation, and successive generations of Derbyshire families continue to work for the company, which employs around 600 people.

Craig Alexander, Smedley's design head, has the knack of developing classic styles and reworking the colour range, without losing the traditional feel. For example, a new style of polo shirt has a double row of buttons, a scoop-necked sweater has been extended into a snazzy short dress. Smedley underwear, its stock in trade until the Thirties, when the first Smedley sweaters were created, is the new craze with the young.

The spectacular upturn in Smedley's fortunes dates from the appointment of Tony Langford as managing director in 1984. In the subsequent five years turnover has doubled, to £12 million. "Even if fashion one day, it will not be for long," he says philosophically. "We will stick with it, and the customer always comes back."

John Smedley stockists include S. Fisher, Burlington Arcade, W1; Harrods, SW1; Flannels, Manchester, Shoppers, Cambridge; Marcus Price, Newcastle and, from October, The Conran Shop, London SW3.

Now you see it, now you don't

As the forces adopt desert camouflage, a look at the art of military deception, from trees that 'walk' to the thermal shield

There is romance in camouflage. The idea of overcoming your enemy by stealth, not simply by force of numbers and equipment, is attractive. And so, in the past couple of weeks, newspapers and television in the West have been allowed to photograph jets painted pink, troops wearing sand-coloured camouflage combat dress, and vehicles being transformed by patterns of mottled beige and brown desert camouflage, in place of the traditional northwest European green and black ("Arctic" and "Jungle" are the two other camouflage options in the British Army's repertoire).

On Friday, *The Times* had a photograph captioned: "Mike Corvill, a signalman from Liverpool, adding final touches of desert camouflage to one of the satellite dishes taken to the Gulf..." There was no accompanying story. There was no need for one.

Everyone knows what camouflage is for — and, from the point of view of the military, there could be no better indication of resolve than its ability to change itself from a European-coloured force to an Arabian-coloured one in 48 hours. Accordingly, each of the services has its camouflage experts.

The idea of camouflage has been around for a long time: it appears in war mythology from Homer's wooden horse of Troy to Shakespeare's Birnam Wood. But most military historians date the emergence of camouflage as a separate design discipline to the first world war.

Until the end of the 18th century, warfare was conducted mainly on the display principle, with armies competing to make themselves look glamorous and frightening through brighter uniforms and taller hats. In 1801, the 60th Rifles — now the Royal Green Jackets — became the first British unit to discard the traditional red tunic, and by the end of the Boer War, khaki had become the accepted colour for all British troop uniforms.

The French are usually credited with the "invention" of camouflage, even though French troops were still going into battle in the first month of the first world war in bright blue uniforms. Nature was an obvious reference point for early camouflage. In French, camouflaged combat clothing became known as *tenue léopard* (leopard dress); and one of the first forms of camouflage was the "observation tree" — an artificial tree with a ladder inside leading to an observation perch.

What attracted some artists to camouflage was not so much the inspiration of nature as the

opportunity for modernist experiment on a grand scale. The first camouflage section in the British Army included a portrait painter, a theatre designer, a topographic etcher and a sculptor; later it was said of the camouflage work of Edward Wadsworth, a well-known vorticist, that it was "the least and most spectacular manifestation of the vorticist experiment"; and it was Norman Wilkinson, an outstanding marine artist, who was responsible for the most bizarre and avant garde camouflage idea of the war, that of "dazzle".

To camouflage a large ship at sea is impossible — and until someone succeeds in building a wave-shaped ship, it is likely to remain so. Wilkinson's solution was to paint bright, geometric patterns of black, white and blue on the sides of ships, which would deceive the eye, making it difficult for U-boat commanders to decide the number, class and direction of vessels they were observing.

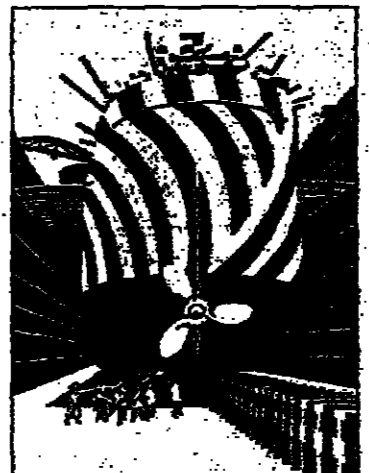
Later, an Admiralty study concluded that there was no evidence that a U-boat commander had ever been deceived — but "dazzle" painting was not immediately abandoned, because it was judged to have a good effect on morale. The evidence of art-

ists' interest in and influence on the development of camouflage is perhaps Gertrude Stein's anecdote: "I well remember at the beginning of the war being with Picasso on the boulevard Raspail when the first camouflaged truck passed. It was at night, we had heard of camouflage but we had not yet seen it and Picasso, amazed, looked at it and then cried out: 'Yes, it is we who made it, that is cubism.'" So the romance was confirmed.

The contemporary reality is unfortunately much more technical and much less romantic. Camouflage has become a branch of the larger field of military deception. As Colonel Michael Dewar pointed out last year in his book *The Art of Deception in Warfare* (David & Charles, £12.95), new technology provides the means of seeing through most covers. Radar, radio intercept equipment, infra-red photography, satellites: against these kinds of electronic surveillance, electronic camouflage is the only real defence. Infra-red absorbent materials, thermal shields, "Stealth" shapes: these are the camouflage of the future.

Sadly, visual camouflage seems likely to become increasingly symbolic, providing morale-boosting pictures for the press.

CALLUM MURRAY



A ship in "dazzle" camouflage

On a showpiece development which became a byword for mugging, the walkways — and crime figures — come down

Creating close harmony down on Mozart Estate

IN THE grey area of northwest London where the City of Westminster stops and the borough of Brent begins, there is a sad estate which looks as though its life is finished, at the tender age of 15. The overhead walkways are down, the mechanical diggers are in and the air is thick with dust. The men in smart suits and hard hats are the only indication of some future life on the embankment ground. This is the discordant Mozart Estate in north Paddington, and it is the graveyard of a design for living.

When it was completed, in what now seems a far-distant era of estate planning, it was vaunted by the council as a fine example of the new wisdom: it was a low-rise development, full of communal space and sudden flashes of green amid the tasteful red brick. There were nooks and courtyards and irregularities that aped far older urban communities and were a deliberate reaction against the soulless towers of the Fifties and Sixties.

But as the construction finished, so the trouble started. The very features which had been designed to humanise the estate made it easier for muggers and burglars to escape detection. By the middle of the Eighties, Mozart was becoming a designer dustbin.

Now, at a cost of £3 million, the council has set in train the first stages of an operation which will turn the estate's character around. According to the local police, the removal of the overhead walkways, phase one of the programme, has resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in crime on the estate.

Mozart is the first estate in the country to be so radically altered in line with the new theories on the link between design and crime. These theories are largely the product of research by a team led

by Professor Alice Colman who, as director of the Land Research Unit at King's College, London, wrote, five years ago, the influential book *Utopia on Trial*. She in turn acknowledges a substantial debt to Oscar Newman and his *Defensible Space*, published 13 years earlier. It was Newman who first applied intensive scientific research to the correlation between crime and residential environments, and who evolved a method of quantifying the specific design defects which were a cause of degeneration.

Since the controversy aroused by her own book, Professor Colman has established the Design Improvement Controlled Experi-

'It aspired to beautify the urban environment, but has been transmogrified into the epitome of ugliness'

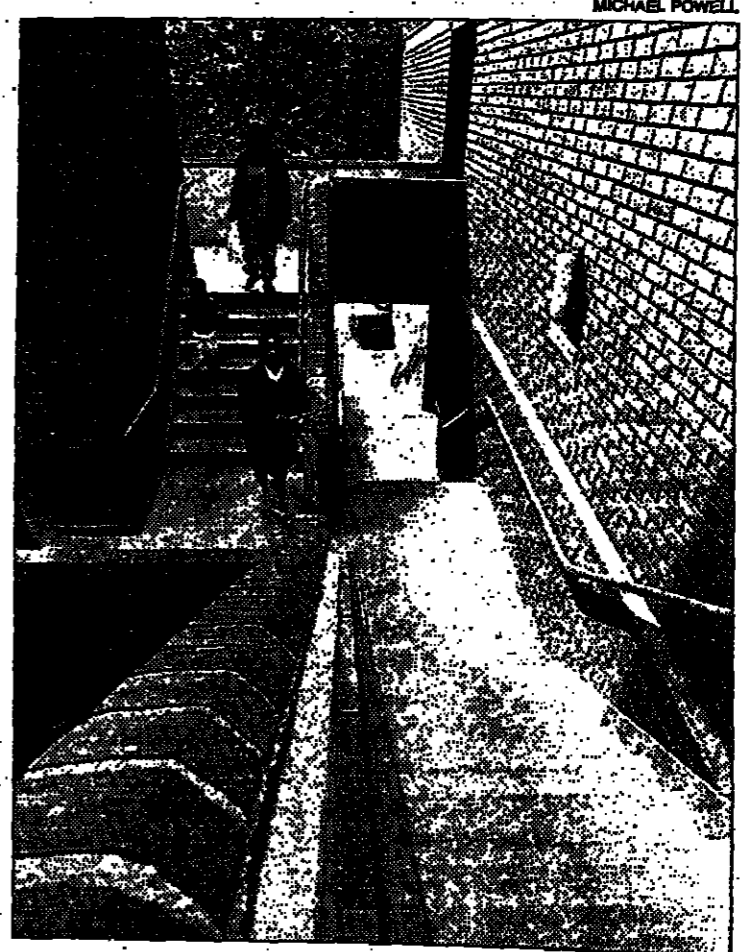
ment (Dice) with £50 million from the environment department and the enthusiastic backing of the prime minister. The aim is to identify other estates which would benefit from the same treatment and turn them around in the same way. Lessons learnt in north Paddington will have a bearing not only on the work of the consultancy, but also on the nature of estates as yet unplanned. There is much yet to be done at Mozart: building new access roads, dividing corridors, eliminating communal space with no clear function, building new "lodge" flats with bay-windows giving a clear view up and down

the front of the estate. The irony is that a stone's throw away stand the low, well-kept terraces of the Queen's Park Estate, with more than twice the number of Mozart's 700 dwellings, and a far higher proportion of residents who have exercised their right to buy from the council. Part of this late Victorian estate was demolished to make way for the Mozart homes and if Westminster had not been dissuaded from its original plan, then the remainder of the old buildings would also have been earmarked for redevelopment.

The signs are now that the Victorians, even though they might not have claimed precedence of social problems a century hence, did get it right: many architects now believe that a return to a grid format with long, tree-lined terraces, holds the key to the future.

At Mozart, "nothing seemed to work," says Brian Foyle, an architect with Max Lock Easton Perlin and King, the firm engaged to translate Professor Colman's prescriptions into reality. "The situation just got worse, and none of the usual solutions, such as management schemes, seemed to do the trick." He and the building contractors have a daunting job: while they are busy minimising escape routes for petty criminals, they immediately risk falling foul of the fire regulations. "It is all a matter of balance," Mr Foyle says.

Professor Colman and her team evolved a formula for calculating the degree of "disadvantage" on an estate. Contributory factors include the amount of "defended" or "confused" space, references to the way in which the function of private and communal land is delineated. She has compiled a list of 16 variables, such as block size, interconnected exits and the num-



Safety steps: areas such as this on the estate are being humanised

ber of dwellings per entrance. "Harold Macmillan's government, and the Housing Act of 1951, were at the heart of the trouble," she says. "At that time the idea was simply to put up as many units as possible, to get rid of the housing backlog. Yet every one knew that the way in which it was being done was a false solution. The housing department admitted not only that it was costly, but also that it was not resulting in a higher density of development. That was a myth. But they went ahead just the same."

When, in her book, she asks why Britain's postwar housing vision should have turned into an "all-

pervading failure", her conclusions have a painful local relevance. She is writing of Utopia, but she could as well be addressing the Mozart Estate: "It aimed to liberate the people from the slums, but has come to represent an even worse form of bondage. It aspired to beautify the urban environment, but has been transmogrified into the epitome of ugliness."

There may be another irony on the fact that a "guilty" council such as Westminster is among the first to invest in Professor Colman's remedies, but it is a welcome one.

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ARTS

EDINBURGH FILM FESTIVAL

Youth hogs the old spotlight

Geoff Brown looks at the offerings of new directors, focusing in particular on the debut of Whit Stillman and his *Metropolitan*.

The Edinburgh Film Festival is 44 years old this year, far older than most of its audiences and many of the directors whose works fill the programmes. Feature films by new directors are competing once again for the Charles Chaplin award, consisting of £3,000 and a bizarre sculptural trophy designed by Eduardo Paolozzi — perfect as a conversation piece, though probably a devil to dust.

Film school students worldwide have their output on display in a competition sponsored by Channel 4. John Landis, a leading light among Hollywood directors with a bulging young audience almost at their back and call, has been in town for a retrospective tribute, the world's first (and, some cynics say, possibly the last). With such ingredients, the festival — organised, as last year, by *The Times* film critic David Robinson — could never be criticised for tottering into staid middle age.

Not that all these bright young films fall slave to current fashions. What could be more out of step than a film whose cast lounge in Park Avenue apartments, costumed in the full regalia of evening dress or debutante gown, preening themselves on their social status, and discussing affairs of the heart, or Jane Austen, or even the opinions of the literary critic Lionel Trilling?

This is the world of *Metropolitan*, an awesomely assured film from Whit Stillman, making his cinema bow after assorted experience in publishing and journalism.

Stillman shares the same privileged background as his elegant, talkative young characters, though he is able to view them with ironic detachment: the effect is almost as though a New York story by Henry James or Edith Wharton was being slyly filmed by Woody Allen. The action unfolds over Christmas, in a fairy-tale Manhattan glow with seasonal decorations. Our guide through the labyrinth of strict social rituals is a ginger-headed Princeton student, at the beginning an outsider with severe socio-political quans and a rented tuxedo, though he



Wicked comedy of manners: strip-poker becomes an ingredient of the social ritual on Park Avenue in Whit Stillman's *Metropolitan*

soon buys his own and lounges along with the best.

The director steers a cast of refreshing newcomers through his sinuous dialogue with magical ease, creating a wickedly subtle comedy of manners. More of this delight in November, when the film gets its commercial release in Britain.

Other American films in the New Directors slot are doing little for Uncle Sam: Mark Townsend Harris's *Nocturne*, a drippy New York story of a disillusioned gay, is a tedious dinosaur, mirrored from the 'Sixties, while John Saffron's *In a Pig's Eye* squanders the potential of its anti-smoking stance with some hideously broad buffoonery. Those seeking contemplative, poetic cinema found refuge, ironically, in the Middle East. Saïed Ebrahimi-far's *The Flame of Pomegranate in the Cane*, from Iran, proved as mysterious as its title, conjuring up scenes from the past life of an old man found dying in the street from a heart attack. The man was a humble calligrapher by trade, and Ebrahimi-far's own images, deployed more as symbols than narrative building blocks, shared the exquisite delicacy of the best calligraphy.

And what of Britain? We fielded the festival's opening film, a brooding, violent adaptation of William McIlvanney's novel *The*

Big Man, with the excellent Liam Neeson as the Scottish artisan sucked into bare-knuckle boxing and Glasgow's criminal underworld. Director David Leland, bouncing back after his unfortunate Hollywood film *Checking Out*, proves he is not just a man for quirky comedies, and lends scenes effectively with gritty atmosphere. The film opens in London next week.

A clutch of recent British productions are competing for another prize, named in honour of the late and glorious Michael Powell: the design of this award, we are promised, uses the famous arrow and bull's eye logo that rang up the curtain on Powell and Pressburger productions.

Gillies MacKinnon, who showed spunk and promise last year with his adaptation of *Conquest of the North Pole*, is represented by a BBC film, *Needle*, a strident, thickly accented essay in ruthless realism, pondering on a drug epidemic in some forsaken city of the near future.

Ken MacMillen, ever ambitious and radical, offers *1871*, a stilted but intriguing musical history lesson about the Paris Commune, using old revolutionary songs, mostly shot in a grand Lisbon theatre. Nothing here suggests MacMillen should now join hands with Andrew Lloyd Webber, though the film at least removes



Brooding: Liam Neeson in David Leland's *The Big Man*

the classroom ambience from British cinema's agit-prop wing. None of the British entries can approach the visual bravura of Derek Jarman's *The Garden*, which received its world premiere last night. This is Jarman in *The Last of England* mood, flinging at the astounded viewer a dense potpourri of private obsessions and images. The Passion story provides the peg, with the Holy Land replaced by the bleakness, pylons and pebbles of Dungeness, where the director lives: the title refers both to Gethsemane and the garden Jarman has created in the coastal wilderness. Sometimes a Christ figure stalks in white robes; at other moments he is replaced by two young men, tarred, feathered

and scourged for their homosexuality.

Jarman's theme is the historical link between religion and the repression of gay sex; not every variation in this complex work succeeds or can even be penetrated by outsiders, but there is never any doubt that Jarman remains ferociously talented.

My Private War offered another feast of personal film-making. Two West German documentary makers, Harriet Eder and Thomas Kufus, somehow rounded up six amateur cameramen who served in the Wehrmacht and filmed the advance on Russia in 1941. We see their surviving footage; we hear their comments as they look back with an eerie mixture of guilt, nostalgia and serene complacency. One of them claims that his only regret is that he never filmed along the Western Front: "Seeing is seeing," the soldier-tourist pronounces, even when the sights include a line of Jews strung up, or human and animal corpses mired in a pit.

The film shows the banalities of war along with the atrocities: the daily Wehrmacht round of eating, head-shaving, and horseplay; the quick refreshing dip in the Black Sea. In packaging this unique material, Eder and Kufus avoid gloating with hindsight: the old soldiers' footage tells its own sorry, fascinating story.

BRIEFING

Dance coup at Alhambra

THE Alhambra Theatre in Bradford has scored something of a coup in bringing the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre to Britain for the first time in 17 years. Bradford is scheduled to be the only British venue for the black dance troupe on its autumn tour of the Soviet Union and France. The Alhambra, considered one of the finest touring theatres in the country, has wasted no time in announcing this coup as the beginning of a much higher profile for the refurbished Edwardian venue. "In dance terms, we have set ourselves the objective of introducing major international companies into the programme," says Anamaria Wills, the Alhambra's general manager.

While London has spent the past five years arguing over a dance house, Bradford has pushed ahead with plans to turn the Alhambra into the North of England venue for dance. The theatre, built in 1914, re-opened in 1986 after an £8.5 million refurbishment that paid particular attention to the special requirements for dance. Shortly after it re-opened, the Alhambra played host to Rudolf Nureyev, celebrating the 25th anniversary of his defection to the West, and later, London Festival Ballet (now English National Ballet) premiered Natalia Makarova's production of *Swan Lake* there.

The Alvin Ailey company, which performs at the Alhambra from October 2 to 6, will present a mixed bill of works that includes *Revelations* and *Night Creature*, two of the most popular dances choreographed by Ailey, who died last December.

Bogart by dark

KENWOOD lakeside, the elegant Hampstead Heath landscape that provides the backdrop for outdoor symphonic concerts during the summer, is venturing into cinematic territory next week. *Casablanca* will be shown on a giant screen at 8.30pm on September 1, in a venture mounted jointly by the National Film Theatre and the sponsors, Cinetru. With 10,000 watts of sound equipment in action, there should be no problem about hearing Sam play it again; slightly more problematical may be the organisers' "light-hearted attempt" to turn Kenwood itself into 1940s Casablanca. The audience, expected to number 8,000, is promised a reconstruction of Rick's Bar, Bogart and Bergman lookalikes re-enacting scenes from the movie, and the "sounds and smells of the authentic Moroccan market".

Courtin' points

ART Buchwald, the New York columnist, continues his litigious assault on the American film

industry. Earlier this year he won a case against Paramount, in which he argued that the Eddie Murphy hit, *Coming to America*, was based on his own story, *King for a Day*. That victory under his belt, Buchwald stepped back into the fray, demanding satisfaction on the issue of money owed to him by virtue of his net profit participation points. Sometimes referred to as "monkey points", these guarantee a share of the profits after a film has broken even. But despite having taken in the region of \$120 million (£64 million) at the box office, Paramount maintains that *Coming to America* failed to break even, partly because of the heavy advance payment to Murphy. Buchwald was not so easily fobbed off, however, and neither, it appears, is the judge in the case, who did not accept Paramount's version of the accounts, and demanded "nuts and bolts" facts before appointing his own auditor.

Home at last

SOME of Romania's most famous artistic exiles are returning to work in Bucharest, now that Ceausescu's "committee of social education and culture" has been abolished. The committee had effectively proscribed much professional performance by defining socialist culture as only that which included mass participation. Now the theatre director Andrei Serban, last seen in Britain in February marshalling the massive forces of the Royal Opera's *Prince Igor*, is poised to become the new director of the National Theatre in Bucharest, having chosen that post in preference to the directorship of the Romanian State Opera, which was also offered to him. Serban, 46, has been living outside Romania for 21 years and is now an American citizen.

An even longer exile was broken when the conductor Sergiu Celibidache returned to Bucharest this year. Celibidache, once a serious rival to Karajan for the principal conductorship of the Berlin Philharmonic, has won something of a cult status in the West for his eccentric interpretations and vast demands for rehearsal time, but he has not worked in Romania since the post-war Communist takeover.



Going home: Andrei Serban

CLASSICAL MUSIC: PROMS

Goehr plunders Paradise to inspire his new creation

Nothing less than the process of creation itself was celebrated at the Proms at the end of last week. Alexander Goehr went straight to the point. He plundered *Paradise Lost* for words to inspire his own creation, a scene for orchestra, mezzo soprano and tenor, which isolates Eve's dream of her strange and sensuous falling flight with Satan. *Eve Dreams in Paradise* was first heard about 18 months ago in Birmingham, where Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra had luxuriated in the physicality of Goehr's vocal arioso, the unstable, febrile orchestral figures, the glinting lights of glockenspiel, harp and alto flute. Matthias Bamert, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, gave a performance which could not match the electricity of the work's premiere (and this may say something about the work itself, but was still more finely disciplined and more poetically paced. Amoral Gurnson and Neil Mackie vividly drew attention to the skill of Goehr's daunting attempts to tame the weight and measure of Milton.

Goehr's London premiere was followed on Thursday evening by a work from his father's teacher, Arnold Schoenberg, itself a comment on creation and re-creation. The process of orchestrating Brahms' Piano Quartet No 1 tied Schoenberg over a period when his own pen threatened temporarily to run dry, and the sense of regeneration and sheer enjoyment in the reworking rang out from its brilliant string harmonies and its trombone glissandos.

Remaking of a more complex and taxing nature was to follow on Friday. What was billed was Janáček's Violin Concerto: what we heard was, unmistakably and chillingly, the plangent cries of the human spirit from the composer's last great Dostoevsky opera, *From the House of the Dead*.

Janáček had been engaged on sketches for a violin concerto when he became pre-occupied with the opera. The ideas which he integrated so powerfully into the overture (and into the scene with the arrival of Petrovich) were pieced together by two Czech scholars, Milos Štěpán and Leos Fuhrus, first played in a short, single-movement form in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1988 and now presented to London by Tasmin Little, the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera and Sir Charles Mackerras.

To anyone familiar with the opera, the resonances set up by this brief interlude of stratospheric and vibrant instrumental combinations were piercing and provocative. To the innocent ear, the work cannot have failed to engage at its own level. Fitch and pulse, in their most extreme manifestations, and juxtapositions, Janáček's timpani heartbeats and fragile moments of song fuse together in this "Pilgrimage of a Soul", a subtitle which will doubtless provoke still more musicalological detective work.

The same Prom had begun with Sir Charles conducting a performance of Mozart's "Prague" Symphony, so full of delighted perceptions of phrasing and in-

strumental colour that it could not be passed over as a mere curtain-raiser. A cunning overture to programme which also included Rodolphe Knapik's valiant performance of Martinů's curious conglomerate, the "Incantation" Fourth Piano Concerto, it also nicely underlined Sir Charles' own lifetime of work with both Czech composers and with Mozart himself.

At last came *The Creation* itself. Sunday night's performance of Haydn's oratorio was not the great crescendo of achievement it could have been, simply because its most potent exponents, the BBC Symphony Chorus, seemed on the whole more concerned with musical literalism than with the spirit of wonder and exuberance which fires the work.

The playing of the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Lothar Zagrosek, and the singing of Margaret Marshall were the glories of the evening. Where they made chamber music together, as in Gabriel and Uriel's quartet with clarinet and bassoon, or in Gabriel's own solo with David Butt's magic flute, the performance rose to a new level. Where Kurt Streit's Uriel, elegant and musically, was something less than a ray of divine light, and where Andreas Schmidt's Raphael/Adam told his tale soberly with not a trace of divine awe, much less divine humour, Marshall's soprano spread its wings with the creature of the air, and delighted in putting the excitement of risk above safety of the middle way.

HILARY FINCH



Engaging on the innocent ear: Tasmin Little, who made her Proms debut in Janáček's Violin Concerto

CRITICS' CHOICE: CONCERTS AND RECITALS

CONCERTS

ACT OF CONTRITION: Following James MacMillan's pre-concert talk (6.15pm), his *Confession of Isabel Gowdie* is a commission premiered by the BBC Scottish Symphony under its chief conductor, Iain Mackenzie. The composer calls it an act of contrition for a woman executed as a witch in 1662, sounding "the soul of Scotland" in orchestral music wrought from folk-song and Gaelic psalms into his own distinctive idiom. Goethe's *Fourth Symphony* and the Korean-born Dong Suk Kang playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto complete the programme. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-823 9998), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

NATIONAL YOUTH MUSICIANS: Sir Colin Davis conducts the select talent of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra first in a British Telecom Matinee Prom, Sir Michael Tippett's *Divertimento on "Selling the Round"*, adapted from one Elizabethan reign to another, and Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony (No 4 in A), enclose Mozart's *Delius of Walt Whitman* verse, and Elgar's *Coronation Ode* with Lillian Watson, Sally Burgess, Malcolm Davies, Peter Savidge the soloists. Worcester Cathedral, Worcester (0905 21911/25511), Fri, 8pm, £2-£15.

SALZBURG MOZARTIAN: Thomas Zehetmair, the Salzburg-born violinist who made his debut there at the age of 16, is soloist/conductor with the Philharmonia at the first of two British Telecom Matinee Proms. He plays two Mozart Concertos, K 216 in G and K 211 in D, and afterwards directs *Symphony No 29 in A* (K 201). Snape Maltings (see above), Sat, 7.30pm, £2.50-£12.50. Also Sun, in more Mozart plus Hartmann's *Concerto Funebre*, 7.30pm.

ROTTERDAM TO EDINBURGH: First of two Edinburgh Festival concerts by the Rotterdam Philharmonic under its American chief conductor, James Conlon. For the Martinů centenary year he picks the Czech composer's unusual Concerto for Double String Orchestra, Piano and Trombone with Peter Donohoe and Randy Max the soloists and follows it with the richly descriptive and celebratory *A Hero's Life* (Richard Strauss). Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, (031-225 5756), Sat, 8pm, £5-£18. Also Dvořák's *Requiem*, with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and soloists, Sun, 8pm.

THREE CHOIRS FINALE: To end this year's festival at Worcester, and recall the link with Elgar's birthplace at nearby Broadheath, *The Dream of Gerontius* is conducted by Donald Hunt. Alan Opie sings Gerontius, Alfred Hodgson the Angel and William

Cochran the Priest and Angel of the Agony, in this vivid musical vision of the Christian Everyman's death and his soul's last judgment narrated in Cardinal Newman's verses. Worcester Cathedral (see left), Sat, 8pm, £2-£15.

ROZHOESTVENSKY RETURNS: Gennady Rozhdestvensky returns for the first of two Proms with the BBC Symphony, of which he was formerly chief conductor. Yo-Yo Ma is the outstanding cello soloist in Dvořák's Concerto, after which the grandly majestic *Te Deum* by Berlioz combines the forces of three choruses with Laurence Dale the solo tenor. Albert Hall (see left), Sun, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12. Also Bank Holiday Mon, in Schubert, Offenbach and Johann Strauss, 7.30pm.

ZUKERMAN IN LONDON: After their Edinburgh Festival appearance, Pinchas Zukerman accompanies the English Chamber Orchestra to London for a programme featuring him as violinist/conductor in Mozart's *A Major Concerto* (K 219). He directs Stravinsky's exhilarating *Dances Concertantes* to begin the concert, and ends with Mozart's *Symphony No 39 in E flat* (K 543).

GRAND HALL, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Mon, 7.45pm, £5-£16.

NOEL GOODWIN

RECITALS

12TH-CENTURY SETTING: Boris Beresovsky, the 20-year-old Russian pianist and winner of the 1989 Tchaikovsky Piano Competition, gives a recital of Beethoven, Schumann and Balakirev as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Festival. Not only was Beresovsky one of the most memorable musicians at the last Leeds Piano Competition, but the concert hall in which he now plays has the distinction of being translated by William Randolph Hearst from his home in Wilshire to the millionaire's European home in the 12th-century castle of St Donat's which now hosts the festival. The Bradenstone Hall, St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan (0446 794848), Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£9.

DAYS AT DARTINGTON: The Kontra Sing Quartet, renowned for its performance of 20th-century music, join force with their compatriot, Per Nørgård, the Danish composer in residence, for a recital of the Quarteto Breve, his 5 major Quartets and his "Tintinabulary" Quartet at the Dartington International Summer School. Great Hall, Dartington, near Totnes, Devon (0803 863073), tonight, 8.15pm, £6.50.

Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 8pm. Programme continues Sat and Sun, 3.15pm and 8pm, £7 each concert.

FESTIVAL ARUNDEL: Pier Adams, recorder, and Howard Beach, harpsichord, offer a coffee concert of music by Bach, Vivaldi, Krieger and Debussy as part of this year's Arundel Festival. Parish Church, Arundel, Sussex (0903 883474), Mon, 11.15am, £3.50 (including coffee at 10.30am).

CZECH CELLO: Steven Isserlis, one of Britain's most distinctive and dramatic young cellists, has his own Edinburgh Festival recital at one of the morning's high-fibre chamber concerts. Accompanied by Peter Evans, he plays with the festival's Czech theme in Janáček's *Petrushka* and Martinů's *Sonata No 2*, and adds Bach's Third Solo Cello Suite and Schubert's irresistible "Arpeggione" Sonata. Queen's Hall, South Clerk Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5756), Wed, 11am, £3-£8.

HILARY FINCH

CORIOLANUS

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REVIEWS

Brecon beckons the music fans

JAZZ
Festival '90
Brecon

EDINBURGH, beware. Brecon is fast developing into a rival as the most congenial place to see a jazz festival. With an admirably broad range of styles gathered in one place, the organisers make the most of the compact setting, encouraging visitors to ramble from one bandstand to another.

On Saturday, the first full day of the event, the music tended to match the mood of the crowd: relaxed and playful. More challenging performances were reserved for the following day, when Sun Ra's Arkestra and saxophonist David Murray were scheduled to disturb the peace of the countryside.

There was, as usual, nothing unduly discordant in the afternoon set by American saxophonist Scott Hamilton, leading a quintet featuring the clarinet player Kenny Davern. The Guildhall was an inappropriate venue for Hamilton's burlesque swing; the band - admirably underpinned by guitarist Howard Alden - might have played with more vigour in an open-air venue. With "Round Midnight" on offer once again, Hamilton seemed content to coast along. Yet even at half time he is more engaging than most of his contemporaries.

Compared with the measured



"The Dirty Dozen Brass Band hit the market hall stage like an untamed force of nature."

and undeniably elegant approach of Triple Treat, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band hit the market hall stage like an untamed force of nature. This was proof, if proof were needed, that last summer's extraordinary set at the Festival Hall was no fluke. No contemporary jazz group can match the DDBB in whipping up audience excitement. New Orleans purists might find it all too trash and too reliant on riffs borrowed from rhythm and blues. Those reservations count for little in the face of the band's remarkable energy: this is an eight-piece which can sound like a fully-fledged big band.

Within half an hour the musicians had the younger members

of the audience up and moving to "Caravan", and the comic slow blues "Don't you feel my leg". The older generation looked on, some of them recalling, perhaps, a time when dancing was a natural part of concerts. By steering jazz back to its roots, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band is performing an invaluable service.

Unfair, perhaps, to sample the Welsh Jazz Orchestra after experiencing the DDBB. Even with Pete King taking the lion's share of the solos, the orchestra seemed unusually tentative in the ensemble passages. Most of the charts, too, lacked bite. King, fortunately, is capable of overcoming the most adverse circum-

stances. He was as effective on the bolder, sub-Lia Schiffrin compositions as on the more familiar Charlie Parker speed tests, "Moose" and "Mooche" among them. His contribution made up for the slacker moments elsewhere. As dusk fell, there was rather more aggression to be found outside on the streets, where the police were rounding up an assortment of young louts who had been spoiling for trouble since early afternoon. The shuffles were hardly a blot on the day, but the festival organisers will need to sort out the problem of excessive drinking before next year's event.

CLIVE DAVIS

OPERA

Falstaff
Glyndebourne

POOR Sir John! What vestiges of sympathy that may have remained for Falstaff in Peter Hall's knockabout Verdi production for Glyndebourne have now been thrown out of the window with the laundry basket. Andrew Shore, who has taken over the title role from Claudio Desderi for the last three performances in the present

run (including tonight's final one), fails to restore any of the ambivalence, any of the shadows of vulnerability or melancholy to a character who, since the production opened in 1988, has become increasingly one-dimensional.

Thanks to the conducting of Sir Charles Mackerras, Verdi's own musical clues are still vibrantly alive. All the world may be a joke but not quite all of the opera should be. And as his English National Opera Falstaff, and even his Glyndebourne Dr Bartolo have shown, Andrew Shore can sing as well as act the fool. But

here the London Philharmonic Orchestra's beautifully transparent handling of Verdi's light scoring reveals all the more cruelly the lack of any subtle verbal inflection vital to Sir John's "What is honour?" The numbness of the bass trombone, as Falstaff reflects on the death of manhood in such a wicked world, fails to nudge Shore into the poignancy of an albeit momentary reflection on death itself.

On Saturday it was difficult to tell if Shore was simply vocally tired at the end of a busy summer or whether his unremitting gruff-

ness and roughness of voice was all part of his response to this character in this production.

The comic business is still very comic. Shore's jowly, geriatric facial features are nicely observed and his combat with Pistol (played by Richard Van Allan) is perfectly timed. But there is more to Verdi's last great comic opera than the belly and belly laughs. "Is this dream or reality?" Ford asks, and we should never quite know the answer.

HILARY FINCH

RADIO

Heavy Side of Town/
Desert Island Discs
Radio 4

WHERE do radio people come from? Is there a secret genetic-engineering centre devoted to replacing those called to the higher seminary? One imagines a vast, echoic factory in which - at the end of a production line designed by Heath Robinson - a spanking new item periodically emerges. Furrowing their brows over it, a team of overalled gnomes conducts an exhaustive quality-control inspection. Can it hold a microphone? Yes, it can. Has it got a quirk? Yes, it has. What shall we call it? Quikky comes the answer: Ray Gosling.

On Monday mornings Ray is to be heard hawking his mule around the sides of Britain's quondam industrial glory, importuning real people and attempting to piece together a portrait of social change. At least, I assume he is attempting something of the sort, for *The Heavy Side of Town*

(Radio 4) exists on a plane of its own, high above the piddling concerns of disc jockeys and hairdressers and other ignoramuses who assume that just because the light comes on when they flip the switch, all must be well with the world. No, these programmes are about the millennial issue of post-industrial Britain.

Ray's quirk - and it must be a remarkable one - is that he sounds as though he might be recuperating from a brain operation: slow diction coupled with a bizarre over-emphasis of unremarkable syllables. Denis Norden does something akin, except that he runs on lumbering puns: *chey Ray*, the jokes are cancelled commuter trains that never leave the sidings. Yesterday found him in Ebbw Vale, contemplating "The big blue shed of the *in-plate works*" - the "tin" resounding in a near-soprano skirl of surprise, as though what he had really been led to expect was an industrial unit manufacturing jam-plate.

The Gosling squeak signals disparity: instead of a Blakean inferno churning out real steel to

build real empires, there now stands a high-tech shack which caters to the needs of supermarket shelves. More extraordinarily yet, the doughty toilers own shares in the enterprise - even the shop steward who, while basically disagreeing with the concept, has rationalized his ownership on the ground that it in some way minimizes the economic depredations of outsiders. "Do you do this all day?" is a fair sample of Ray's interview technique. "Is this a satisfying job?" comes a worthy second-best. It is as if he cannot comprehend the honor of shop-floor boredom as if real work consists of thrusting mikes into people's faces. He means well; of course he means to be maled; he sounds patronising.

On Sunday, Radio 4 offered an unexpectedly timely second chance to hear the *Desert Island Discs* involving Sir Crispin Tickell, our man at the UN with the dark suit and the distinguished eyebrows and the total condemnation of Iraqi aggression. Now Sir Crispin is a man of many parts. He is, for example, extremely concerned about the deleterious consequences of global warming,

which - if you can remember that far back - was one of the big scare stories of the late 1980s. For Sue Lawley's benefit he recalled a conference convened in Utah by Robert Redford, at which scientific bigwigs from Russia and America rubbed their brain cells together. During a break in the proceedings Sir Crispin went for a stroll and chanced upon a musician playing a composition entitled "Lullaby For The Baby Seal Pups". Remarkably, the envoy would like to pack this in his desert island baggage, or so he tells us.

Finding it difficult to grill a trained diplomat, Lawley was obliged to revert to coyeness. When the prime minister dropped in on Sir Crispin in Mexico City, "I understand that the earth moved." Well yes, it did: there was an earthquake. But to what extent was he responsible for Mrs Thatcher's recent "greeting"? Oh, hardly at all, for the prime minister understands these problems better than anyone. If literally true, this was the most disturbing news of the weekend.

MARTIN CROPPER

NEW RELEASES

DIE HARD 2 (15): Action-packed but not as exciting as the original. With Bruce Willis as cop trying to stop a terrorist plot. Director: Renny Harlin. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

MICHAEL HAS LEFT (12): Flawless film of a man and a woman in love, given a modern twist by director Michael Winner. Director: Michael Winner. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

L'ATALANTE (PG): Jean Vigo's entrancing French classic from 1934 - a lyrical, quasi-romantic tale of a young couple in a large, manor-like house with a large, manor-like house with a large, manor-like house.

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II (PG): A study crowd-pleaser in round off the series, with some amusing jokes in the Western's sequel. Director: Robert Zemeckis. Cannon. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

BLACK RAINBOW (15): Mike Hodges' superbly stylized tale of a young man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Mike Hodges. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

THE BOOST (15): A comedy about a man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Mike Hodges. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, an appealing tribute to the movies. Director: Giuseppe Tornatore. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (15): Woody Allen's engaging portrait of a man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Woody Allen. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

CRY-BABY (12): John Waters' frenetic comedy about a man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: John Waters. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

DAYS OF THUNDER (12): A comedy about a man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Michael Crichton. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

ABSDUR PERSON SINGULAR (15): A comedy about a man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Michael Crichton. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

DICK TRACY (PG): The blockbuster of the year - a cracking tale of a detective who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Michael Crichton. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

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ignore dog comedy, aimed at barons of the suburban zone. From video-director Jonathan Lynn.

PRETTY WOMAN (15): Standout comedy of the year. A man who is a victim of a violent and corrupt society. Director: Michael Crichton. Orion. Videocassette (VHS) £19.99 (DVD) £24.99.

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND PENNY OSBORN
TELEVISION CHOICE CHRIS PETT/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALE

BBC 1
8.00 Cee-fax
8.30 Breakfast News with Paul
Burden and the team 8.55 Regional
news and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 But First This... Entertainment for
young viewers beginning with Belle
and Sebastian (9.05) Why Don't
You... 7 ideas on how to keep
children out of mischief (9.10)
10.00 News and weather followed by The
Jesters, cartoon series 10.30
Playdays (9)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Poetry read by the
pupils of the Moor Park High School,
Hendon (9)
11.00 News and weather followed by
Peasable Kingdom. American drama
series starring Linda Wagner as the
director of the Los Angeles county
zoo. Today, Rebecca has trouble
with cats running wild
12.00 News and weather followed by The
Garden Party. Actress Honor Blackman
joins the show from the Glasgow
Botanic Gardens. Robert Kilroy-Glik
takes agriculture minister Baroness
Trumpington to lunch and there is an
analysis of what makes good tomato
chutney 12.55 Regional news and
weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip
Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Biting
Butter. Tony Butler hangs up his bicycle
clip as he reaches journey's end and on
his motorhome ride across the Midlands
2.20 Film: Lily in Love (1955). A
sophisticated and witty comedy in which
playwright Lily Wynn (Maggie Smith)
decides that Fitzroy (Christopher
Plummer), her ageing actor

husband, is unsuitable as the romantic
lead in her next film. He must
persuade her otherwise. Directed by
Karelitz
4.00 Red and Blue. Two Plasticine
characters battle it out in this animated
double bill 4.10 The All New
Poppye Show. A cartoon adventure with
the approach-acting hero (9.45) The
Really Wild Show. A series of
children's educational programmes
with Terry Nutkins, Nicole Davies and
Chris Packham (9)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Steel Riders. Third
of an eight-part action thriller from New
Zealand. Sandra's father is arrested
when the police find an emerald.
(Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours. (9) (Cee-fax). Northern
Ireland. Sportsworld. 5.40 Inside Usher
8.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford
and Andrew Harvey. Weather
8.30 Regional News Magazines. Wales:
Wales Today; Northern Ireland:
Neighbours
7.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Getting
Barry Higher in the World. Roy Clarke's
gentle-paced comedy about three old
rogues in the Yorkshire Dales.
Seymour tries to make a child's kite
(9) (Cee-fax)
7.30 EastEnders. (Cee-fax)
8.00 May to December: Fools Rush In.
Re-run of Paul A. Mendelson's likeable
romantic comedy with Anton
Folger as a Scottish solicitor in love
with a young games mistress (Eve
Metheson) (9) (Cee-fax)
8.30 The Last of the Summer Wine. A
helping of variable comedy
sketches with support from Martin
Daniels, Lisa Maxwell and Mark Walker
(9) (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael
Buerk. Regional news and weather

BBC 2
7.10 Open University. Genes, Goals and
Superheroes. Ends 7.35
9.00 Mastermind 1980 presented by
Magpie Magnusson (9)
9.30 Film: The Moonraker (1962). b/w
starring Grainger Gordan and Walter
Pidgeon. Second world war morale
booster, which not only caught the
popular mood but won seven Oscars
including best actress for Gordan as the
idealised housewife surviving the war
in her English country garden.
William Wyler directs
11.40 Chronicle: The Cottage. What a
simple Victorian cottage in the hamlet of
Walderton in the Sussex Weald tells us
about the people who once lived in it
(9)
12.30 Worldwide: National Geographic -
on Assignment. Taking pictures for the
National Geographic magazine must be
the traveller's dream. Today's
programme looks at two
photographers on assignment, one in
Yugoslavia and the other in Spain (9)
1.20 Charlie Chalk. Animated children's
adventure (9)
1.35 Sign Extra. An opportunity to see
The Lowdown - Fighting for Breath with
sign language and subtitles (9)
2.00 News and weather followed by
Great Britons. The lives behind
legendary names are told by their
biographers. David Howarth gives a
biography-blow about one of the
most famous private life of Britain's
greatest aristocrats, Horatio
Nelson (9)
3.00 News and weather followed by
Aristocrats: Prince Franz Josef of
Liechtenstein. Sandwiched
between Austria and Switzerland, the

small country of Liechtenstein has
been ruled by Prince Franz Josef since
1929. Robert Lacey discovers how
the community has been transformed
into Europe's richest (9)
3.50 News and weather. Regional news
and weather
4.00 Film: The Moonraker (1962) starring
George Baker and Sylvia Syms.
Swashbuckling adventure set in
17th-century merry England as a
dashing young highwayman rescues
Charles, heir to the throne,
from the clutches of the
Roundheads. John Le Mesurier makes a
surprisingly effective Cornwall.
Directed by David MacDonald
5.20 Town Portraits. John Grundy visits
Bellingham in Northumberland (9)
5.30 Gardeners' World. The merits of fly-
catching plants and an update on the
compost experiments (9)
6.00 Film: Our Man in Marrakesh (1966)
starring Tony Randall, Santa Bergr,
Herbert Ross, Klaus Kinski, Terry
Thomas and Wilfrid Hyde White. Taped
gangster spoof in which a courier
willing to pay \$2 million in return for
information hides among a busload
of Moroccan tourists. Directed by Don
Sharp
7.35 Biko and the Medium. A
Vintage comedy starring Phil Silvers.
Biko stages a séance for Sergeant
Ritzik to advise him on how to spend his
money (9)
8.00 Hear-Say. The last programme in the
series looks at what appears to be a
paradox. Britain's black youth are
alleged to have lived ambition, in contrast
they lack role-models. Yet
black stars in sport, entertainment and
politics are among the most
admired. Jacqui Harper and Colin
Charles investigate

ITV LONDON
6.00 TV-am
9.25 News and the Masters of the
Universe (9) 9.50 Thames News and
weather 9.55 Inspector Gadget (9)
10.25 Vicky the Viking 10.50 News
headlines
10.55 Treasure Island in Outer Space
11.50 Thames News and weather
11.55 The Adventures of Tintin (9) 12.00
Porky Pig 12.05 Rod, Janie and Freddy
(9)
12.25 Home and Away. 12.55 Thames
News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet.
Weather
1.20 Coronation Street. (9) 1.50 A
Country Practice 2.20 Take the High
Road
2.50 What's My Line? Angela Rippon
hosts the guess-the-occupation panel
game 3.15 News headlines 3.25 Families
Thames News headlines 3.25 Families
3.55 Turn on to T-Bag (9) 4.20 Under the
Bedclothes 4.45 Scooby Doo. (9) 5.10
Blockbusters
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong.
Weather
5.55 Thames Help presented by Jackie
Cornehill
6.00 Home and Away. (9) 6.30 Thames
News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. (Oracle)
7.30 Thames Action. Three families living
in bed and breakfast accommodation
present a report on the plight of the
homeless, recording their findings on
mini video cameras

Channel 4
6.00 Noah's Ark. Journeys down the
Andean Rivers
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Footage of
stunning scenery set to a relaxing
musical background
11.00 As It Happens. Michael Groth and
his camera crew head north, recording
whatever and whoever they discover
in their travels around Scotland
12.00 Way of the Lakes. Tony Warburton
samples the delights of one of Britain's
greatest National Parks, the Lake
District, where water-skiing, pony-
trekking and birdwatching are some
of the activities on offer to visitors who
want to do more than admire the
scenery
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and
business news service
1.00 Sesame Street (9)
2.00 Channel Four Racing. Brought Scott
introduces the day's races from York,
with commentary by Graham Gould
includes the Eagle Lane Acorn Stakes
(2.25), Festival Meadow Handicap
(2.35), Juddmonte International Stakes
(3.10), Great Voltigeur Stakes (3.45),
and the Dowsing Handicap (4.15)
4.30 Countdown. The weekly quiz
Richard Whitley
5.00 The Long Ranger (b/w)
5.30 Noah's Ark: Lancel National Park.
(Teletext)
6.00 Sumo. The rotund sportsmen in
action in the 1989 Autumn Grand Sumo
Tournament, from Tokyo. With
commentary by Lyle Watson (9)
6.30 Mork and Mindy. Comedy with the
frenetic alien from Ork. Starring Robin
Williams and Pam Dawber
7.00 Channel Four News with Jon Snow
7.50 Comment followed by weather
8.00 Landscapes: Twenty Long
Winners. Tim Prence presents the third

of the brief and terrible history of
chemical warfare. Posing gas was
introduced in the first world war to
such appalling effect that it played no
part in the second world war. Since
then chemical weapons, although
developed, manufactured and
stored, have not been used in war,
except by the Americans in Vietnam
and by Iraq. Until recently, both the
United States and the Soviet Union
have prevailed on the subject of
such weapons while possessing
enough to destroy the world several
times over. Now, however, both are
intent on reducing their stock piles - to
just enough to wipe us all out once.
Standard policy between the
superpowers as to the use of
chemical weapons has been one of
"after you" - so far effective - but
with both Iraq and perhaps Libya now
holding these weapons their future
use hangs even more in the balance
11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H
12.30am Film for Change: The
Bedroom/Bathroom. Time designers
are asked to create an open plan
bedroom/bathroom. Presented by Peter
Leonard (9)
1.00 Video View with Mariella Frostrup
1.30 Banks and Copstick at the Festival.
Monroe Banks and Kate Copstick
report on the more unusual events
at the Edinburgh Festival
2.30 Donahue. Phil Donahue is joined by
Burt Lancaster 3.30 Quiz Night with
Rosa King 4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 ITN Morning News with Anna
Leuchars. Ends 6.00

RADIO 1
6.00am Stereo and MW
6.05am BBC News 6.30am Stereo
6.45am 9.00am Stereo 6.50am Stereo
6.55am 9.00am Stereo 7.00am Stereo
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Last round of German talks on treaty opens under a cloud

FROM GIRARD STEICHEN IN BONN

THE two Germanies began a final round of talks yesterday on a unification treaty already clouded by the collapse of East Germany's coalition government and bitter political bickering in Bonn.

The negotiations, which are expected to last the week, are designed to set down the final technical, financial and legal components of German unification.

Whether the document will ultimately be approved remains in doubt after the pullout on Sunday of the Social Democrats (SPD).

Kuwait banks on its assets

Continued from page 1

tion and meals are being provided by neighbouring governments. About 150,000 were abroad at the time of the invasion, including 25,000 in Britain.

The minister said that revenue from the investment office accounted for about half its budget. There was also substantial income from other Kuwaiti investment bodies in the US, Japan and France.

The government-in-exile, based in Saudi Arabia, probably has a bigger income than the puppet government set up by Iraq, if any subsidies from Baghdad are disregarded. Before the invasion revenue from 1.5 million barrels of oil a day and revenue from investments were the two largest income sources, as there was no income tax. Utilities did not run at an overall profit; many were heavily subsidised.

Oil production has not resumed because of the United Nations trade sanctions. The puppet government is thought to depend on money seized from the Central Bank, which the minister estimated at £200 million, and subsidies from Baghdad. It is unclear whether it has succeeded in opening strongrooms under the bank containing Kuwait's gold reserves. Twenty-one of the 22 members of the government-in-exile are in Saudi Arabia, the exception being the defence minister. According to the source, he remains inside Kuwait and is co-ordinating the resistance to Iraq.

The government continues to hold cabinet meetings every Sunday under the chairmanship of Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the Crown Prince. Kuwait also continues to be represented in virtually all international bodies, despite Iraq's claim that it no longer exists.

from the government of the East German prime minister, Lothar de Maizière. The collapse of the broad coalition leaves the government short of a majority in parliament. The unification treaty would require a two-thirds majority.

Social Democrats have said they will not vote for the document in its present form because it does not offer East Germans enough social guarantees. However, the leadership has said it is still willing to negotiate on its terms. There is also serious dispute over how tax revenues will be distributed to states after unification.

The government of Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, has warned that if the treaty is not ratified West German law could be imposed unilaterally on the East until elections are held in December. With the nation's economy in chaos, there are increasing calls for East Germany's parliament to approve immediate merger with West Germany and accept a transitional law. Herr de Maizière wants East Germany to vote to unify with West Germany in October after the unification treaty is approved and in tandem with state elections.

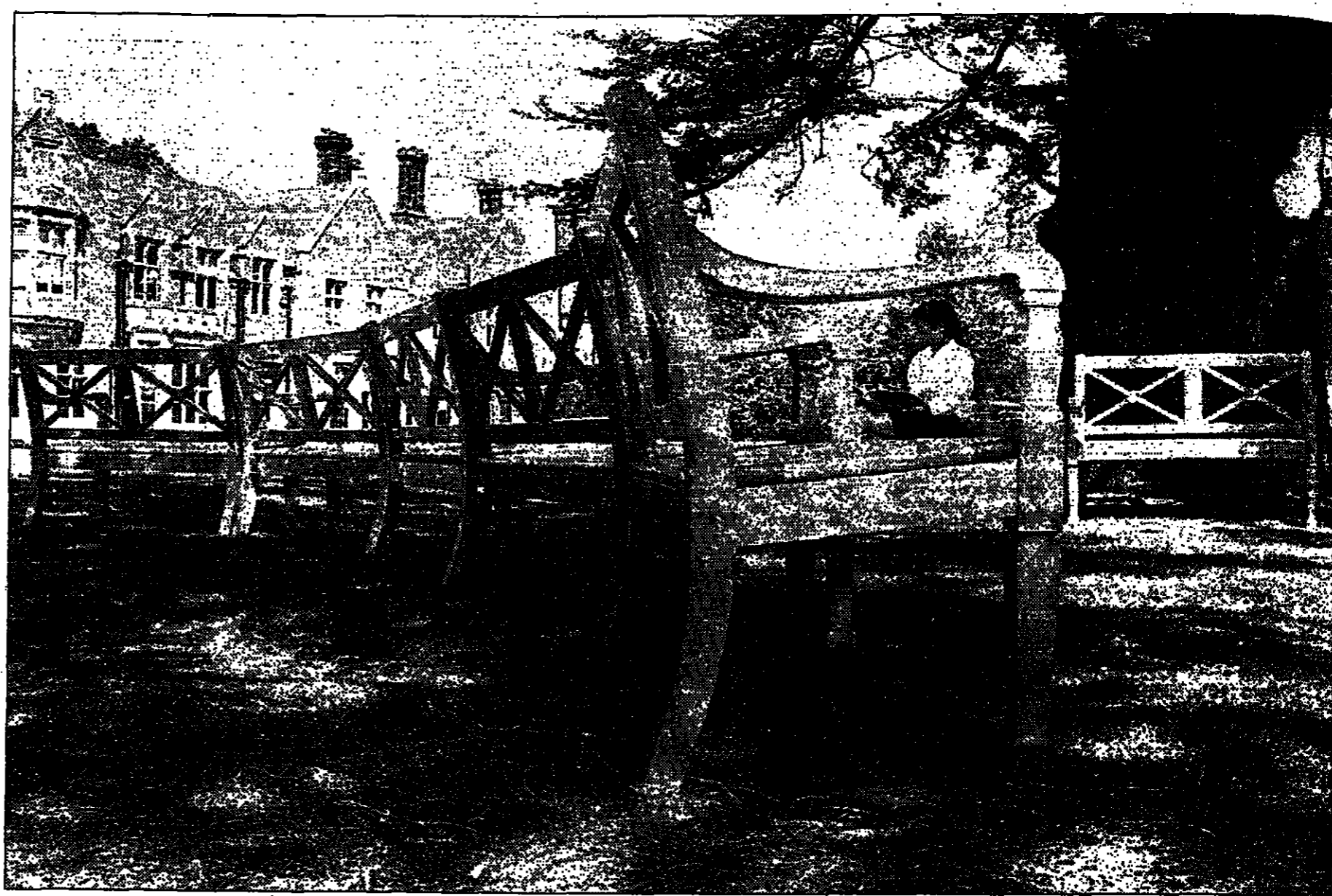
Herr de Maizière said he will push for passage of the unification treaty, which he contends is the only way that the interests of East Germans can be adequately guarded. "This is a matter of conscience," Herr de Maizière said. Oskar Lafontaine, Herr Kohl's SPD challenger in the December 2 elections, renewed his call for an immediate East German merger. He wants East Germany's parliament to take such a vote tomorrow. He said the unity treaty was deeply flawed. "The treaty in its present form is not capable of tackling the tremendous problems that face us," Herr Lafontaine said.

East German SPD leaders say they will ask parliament to approve a merger for mid-September after Allied talks on the status of a united Germany are complete. The decision by the SPD to pull out of the coalition came after Herr de Maizière sacked two SPD ministers in charge of the economy. He blamed the ministers for bungling economic reforms after monetary union in July.

Herr de Maizière said yesterday that all SPD ministers who have since resigned will be replaced in their duties by state secretaries. The prime minister said he was personally taking over the office of foreign minister after the resignation of Markus Meckel.

Herr de Maizière said: "I don't want people to get the impression that there are suddenly only empty rooms around here."

EC bends rules, page 7



Hurricane windfall: some of the garden benches made from rare trees which were toppled in Kew Gardens by the great storm of October, 1987. They are to be auctioned by Sotheby's at Billingshurst, Sussex, next month, in aid of the Royal Botanic Gardens and are expected to fetch between £1,000 and £1,500 each.

Yeltsin's deputy urges Ryzhkov to resign

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin's deputy yesterday urged Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, to resign over the Kremlin's failure to cope with the economic crisis facing the nation.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, an economist and vice-president of the Russian Federation, appealed to foreign countries and firms to do business with Russia rather than with central Soviet institutions.

He accused the central government of "very cleverly" ignoring documents passed by the Russian parliament on economic independence and disregarding the Russian Federation's interests. Mr Ryzhkov's "extreme incompe-

tence" had led the Soviet Union to its "present dead end" and accused him of "not fulfilling the task set by President Gorbachev" in revising the central government's economic reform programme. "I would retire the government at once," he said.

He accused the Soviet government of making provocative statements which set the Soviet Union against Russia and trying to destabilize the situation and undermine Mr Gorbachev's policies. However, he also expressed total loyalty to the Soviet Union and to President Gorbachev.

His praise for Mr Gorbachev and his policies suggested that a possible alliance had been formed between the Russian Federation

leadership and the president to isolate Mr Ryzhkov, who is increasingly, and probably unjustly, regarded as an economic conservative and an impediment to radical change.

Mr Khasbulatov's comments are likely to have the full support of Mr Yeltsin, who was in Moscow last week in order to attend a meeting of the special working group on the economy which he supervises jointly with President Gorbachev.

Mr Yeltsin was yesterday in the Soviet Far East, visiting the ports of Vladivostok and Nakhodka.

Viktor Yaroshenko, the Russian Federation's minister for economic relations, said that foreign countries and banks should con-

sider advancing credit to Russia rather than to the Soviet Union. "If people give credit, they should give it to those who will repay it, and that will be the republics."

However, he emphasised that investment was more attractive to the Russian government than credit and claimed that the republic had already received more than 200 billion roubles (£200 billion). Earlier, Mr Khasbulatov had described Soviet government demands that Russia give up 60 per cent of its convertible currency earnings to the centre as unacceptable. Referring to the recent agreement between the Soviet state company for diamond marketing and a Swiss affiliate of the South African firm, De Beers,

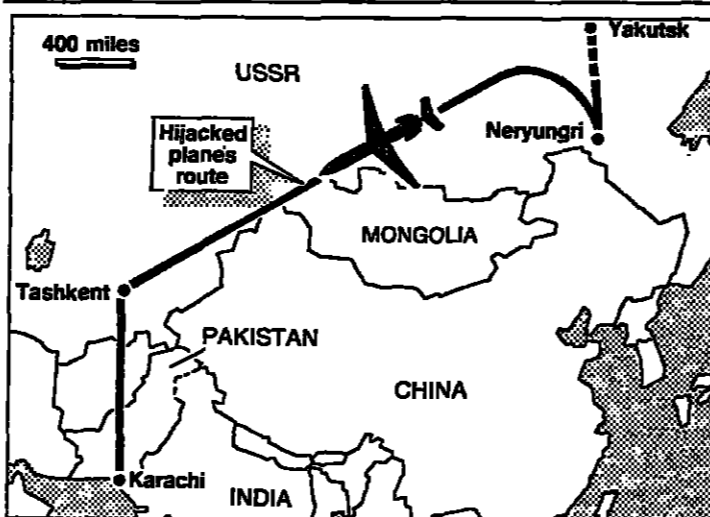
which sparked off the dispute between the Russian Federation and the Kremlin over the right to dispose of natural resources, Mr Khasbulatov said agreements already concluded had to be honoured. But the Russian government had a right to know what deals were being done and had to be able to monitor them.

He said the present situation, where the Russian Federation's leadership had no information about the country's gold reserves or their sale, was "not normal". At the weekend, the Russian justice minister, Nikolai Fedorov, complained in a newspaper interview that the Soviet government had dumped gold worth more than \$1 billion (£520 million) on Western markets in less than two weeks.

He said maximum Soviet gold sales were normally between 2 billion and \$3 billion a year. He gave no details about the timing of the sales, which he said were reported on a service of the official Tass news agency restricted to senior officials.

Recent reports have suggested that large amounts of Soviet gold have been deposited in Western banks as collateral for loans.

Mr Fedorov said that the gold sales, like the De Beers deal, ought to have been subject to the Russian Federation's sovereignty declaration which deems all natural resources in the republic to belong to it and not to the central Soviet authorities.



Hijack ends in Karachi

Continued from page 1

with a fresh one, Tass said. Negotiations continued through the night and the plane was allowed to refuel and leave after the hijackers promised to free the hostages on arrival.

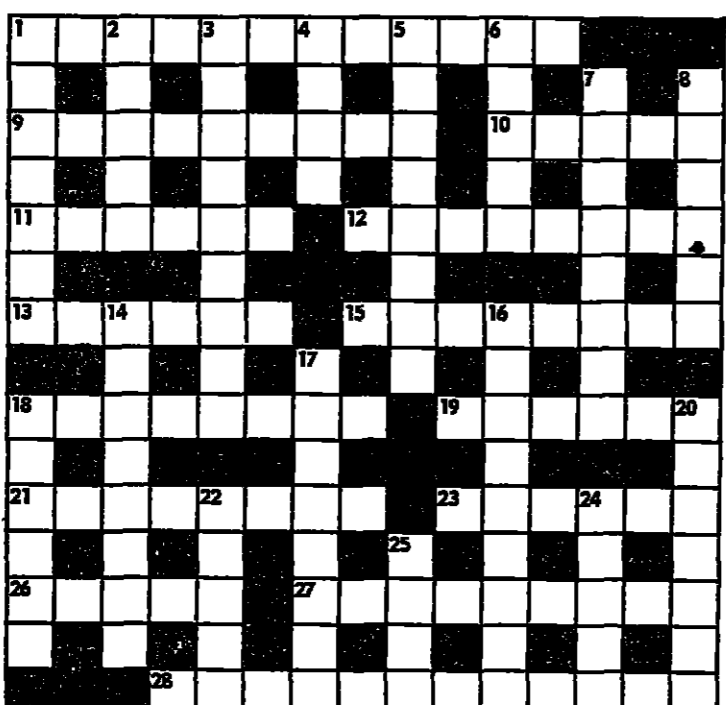
The TU 154 plane, carrying 29 passengers and nine crew members, was originally refused permission to land at Karachi's Quaid-e-Azam international airport. But the pilot said that he only had five minutes of fuel left and was finally given permission. The airport was sealed off for two hours as heavily-armed com-

mandos took up positions around the runway before the hijackers surrendered.

● HELSINKI: Finland decided yesterday to extradite a young Soviet hijacker who claimed he was placed in a mental hospital for refusing to do military service. His application for political asylum was turned down.

The Soviet authorities have two weeks to take Mikhail Varfolomeyev, aged 20, into custody, a Justice Ministry statement said. He had hijacked an Aeroflot airliner on an internal flight from Tallinn to Lvov. (Reuters)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,378



- ACROSS**
- Opener to name one or two flats, perhaps (3,9).
 - Royal turcoat found in simple story (9).
 - A king — one in favour (5).
 - Padre's ignoble part in surrender (6).
 - A flyer starting elementary training requires strict disciplinarian (8).
 - Withdraw from French sector (6).
 - Note bound to be of sound quality (8).
 - Alcohol mixture with mature body (8).
 - Working the old way — in agreement (6).
 - State in Spain or Italy of alert (8).
 - The foreign crowd returned to wave (6).

- DOWN**
- Affectionate Russian relatives (7).
 - Gets out in the county (5).
 - A guru in LA moving to an address in Washington (9).
 - Climbing plant without a fastening device (4).
 - Young person to generate trouble (8).
 - Proper set up, with great potential (5).
 - Girl in taxi is using it for a trip (8).
 - Finally arrange to make payment (6).
 - Ending voluntary support sounds indecent (8).
 - Rigid code in Castile (9).
 - A giver, for example, in distress (8).
 - Iron lady's headgear? (6).
 - Christmas brand of record you'll hear first (7).
 - Catherine, perhaps, ends the stanza (5).
 - Animal caught by soldiers on both sides of the Atlantic (5).
 - It's known to everyone, said Jingle (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,377

GRENADE CHATTER
OATMEAL
NEPALI STABLEMAN
CRAZY MENDS
REUNITE LEATHERN
FATE EXERCISES
DETENTION POWER
FAMOUS ENIGMA
CONTAINER
OCEANIC ANDANTE

Concise Crossword, page 11

WEATHER

Northern Ireland, parts of Wales and the extreme south-west of Scotland will start the day cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle and fog around coasts and hills. These conditions will spread to most other areas north of the Wash to the Bristol Channel. Areas further south, although becoming cloudy, should stay dry. It will be warmer in most parts. Outlook: dry in most areas, especially in the south.

ABROAD

MEDIAN: (t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; si=sleet; sn=snow; l=lar; c=cloud; w=rain)

	C	F		C	F
Ajaccio	29	84	Algeria	30	86
Algeria	31	88	Amman	21	70
Amman	16	61	Baghdad	21	70
Baghdad	21	70	Bahia	21	70
Bahia	21	70	Bombay	21	70
Bombay	21	70	Buenos Aires	21	70
Buenos Aires	21	70	Calcutta	21	70
Calcutta	21	70	Cairo	21	70
Cairo	21	70	Chongqing	21	70
Chongqing	21	70	Columbo	21	70
Columbo	21	70	Dacca	21	70
Dacca	21	70	Dhaka	21	70
Dhaka	21	70	Hankow	21	70
Hankow	21	70	Hong Kong	21	70
Hong Kong	21	70	Kobe	21	70
Kobe	21	70	London	21	70
London	21	70	Lyons	21	70
Lyons	21	70	Manila	21	70
Manila	21	70	Medan	21	70
Medan	21	70	Moscow	21	70
Moscow	21	70	Myittha	21	70
Myittha	21	70	Nairobi	21	70
Nairobi	21	70	Paris	21	70
Paris	21	70	Rangoon	21	70
Rangoon	21	70	Reykjavik	21	70
Reykjavik	21	70	Riyadh	21	70
Riyadh	21	70	Singapore	21	70
Singapore	21	70	Sofia	21	70
Sofia	21	70	Taipei	21	70
Taipei	21	70	Tokyo	21	70
Tokyo	21	70	Tybe	21	70
Tybe	21	70	Urumchi	21	70
Urumchi	21	70	Yokohama	21	70
Yokohama	21	70	Zurich	21	70

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- YUFT**
- Pringles of the west
 - Hair cut into a crest
 - Russian leather
- GORP**
- To squint
 - A fitty
 - Go Rest in Peace
- OILAV**
- A Beagle olive
 - An Irish doctor
 - To anoint with oil
- DES RES**
- The thing in hand
 - With a criminal intent
 - A nice house

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
Northern Ireland	
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 21C (70F); min 6pm to 6am, 14C (57F). Humidity: 6 pm, 64 per cent. Rain: 4.2 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.5 hr. Bar: main sea level, 60m. 1 018.0 mbars, falling, 1,000 mbars=29.53 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Farnham, South Norfolk, 25C (77F). Lowest day temp: Fair Isle, Shetland, 15C (59F). Highest night temp: Litchfield, Devon, 14.2C. At highest sunrise: Litchfield, Shetland, 5.8 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 17C (63F); min 6pm to 6am, 11C (52F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 1.07 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6pm, 3.5 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 18C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6pm, 5.6 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Rain	Max	F	Min	F
Scarborough	2.8	19	19	68	14	57
Hull	2.8	19	21	70	14	57
London	1.8	19	21	70	14	57
Cardiff	1.8	19	21	70	14	57
Belfast	0.7	19	21	70	14	57
Edinburgh	0.7	19	21	70	14	57
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Belfast	0.7	19	2			

TUESDAY AUGUST 21 1990

Goodman gives food for thought

period. The developer was brought close to collapse by the slump in the property market following cashflow problems, which stemmed from soaring borrowings and a slowdown in sales of completed developments.

The new money raised by Warburg is supposed to give Sheraton a year to sort out its problems. Sheraton has begun a disposal programme in an effort to bring borrowings down to acceptable levels by September 1991. However, the new bank finance comes with condition attached, and any further deterioration in the property market could prove fatal to the company.

The valuers reckon that Sheraton's portfolio will be worth £550 million on completion, of which £366 million was ascribed to development properties. It will cost Sheraton more than £100 million to complete its development portfolio.

FROM JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

With congressional elections at the end of this year President Bush does not want a recession at any cost. Salomon Brothers expect American interest rates to end the year at 7.5 per cent and the consensus on Wall Street is that Mr Greenspan will wait until later in the year to move to this level.



Tempus, page 19

that Brian Shrubbsall, the vice-chairman, had followed the example of Trevor Osborne, the chairman, in transferring part of his shareholding to a Jersey trust.

MATTHEW BOND

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

MAJOR CHANGES		MAJOR INDICES	
RISES:			
Enterprise	6620 (+120)	New York Jones	2692.38 (+17.59)
Chemring	4800 (+250)	Dow Jones	
Phet Marikans	550 (+25)	Tokyo:	
Sphyhawk	250 (+250)	Nikkei Average	26490.47 (+296.25)
		Hong Kong:	
		Hang Seng	3092.84 (-69.80)
		Americans:	
		CSB Tendency	102.3 (-1.2)
		Sydney: AO	15338.5 (-4.8)
		Frankfurt: DAX	1636.69 (-30.19)
		General:	549.94 (-14.56)
		Paris: CAC	450.25 (-11.19)
		Zurich: S&K Gen	568.6 (-11.2)
FALLS:			
J.A. Devarath	1480 (-140)	London:	
Grand Met	573 (-9)	FT: Allshare	1055.25 (-10.45)
Morland	3210 (-170)	FT: "500"	1163.46 (-10.97)
Friendly Hotels	2180 (-230)	FT: Gold Mines	233.20 (-30.00)
ML Jackson	3070 (-170)	FT: Fixed Interest	87.38 (+0.47)
ML Jackson	7470 (-170)	FT: "B" Stock	71.30 (-1.00)
Reuters	857.70 (-400)	FT: Pensions	23367
London & Man	302.00 (-20)	SEAD Volume	350.60
Rockmans B'	653.90 (-80)	USM (Datestream)	127.87 (-0.60)
Ham Corp	6480 (-180)		
A Cohen	4800 (-200)		
Lacoste	5850 (-50)		
Marshall Units	4800 (-200)		
WFP	850 (-40)		

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS			
at Dealings August 13	Last Dealings August 22	Last Declaration November 15	For Settlement November 28
If 13 options were taken out on 20,000 Ford Solar Mopars, Prmet Mopars, Chevies, etc. 13: Robt-Rolov, Brownville			

Bank lending slows down at last

COMMENT

Slower growth of bank lending and money supply is now a firmly established trend and shows that, in this part of the economy at least, the anti-inflation policy is working well. The July figures were particularly good for special reasons but are clearly not a flash in the pan. The trend is so clear that some City economists are — perhaps too optimistically — looking forward to a cut in the long-standing 15 per cent base rate in the next two or three months.

The rise in bank lending in July was the lowest monthly figure since August 1988, partly due to a round of destocking by retailers as well as low personal lending. More significantly, the 12-month rate of growth in bank lending, at 17.6 per cent, is the lowest since June 1986 and there are no special factors in that. Likewise, M4, the wider measure including building society deposits, was helped last month when investors in privatised water companies paid the second instalment on their shares. But there is an underlying downward trend.

M0 may now be reduced to the

status of a lagging indicator, but in that role is showing an encouraging downward progression. Annualised growth over the past six months is well below that over 12 months and growth in the past quarter is negligible. There is a good chance that, in August, annual M0 growth will come within the 1-5 per cent growth target set in the 1988 Budget for the first time, apart from the freak strike-affected figure in September last year.

If only monetary policy were about watching the aggregates and making sure bank lending came under control, housebuyers could be fairly confident that their mortgage interest rate might come down in a couple of months' time. But that is no longer the case.

To start with, inflation has gained its own momentum through pay increases, which had certainly become the principal factor pushing underlying inflation further up until the

uncertainties over oil. Monetary policy is therefore as much aimed at wage bargainers as at squeezing credit.

Long-term anti-inflation policy is also in the throes of a great recasting.

The monetary and public-finance targets of the medium-term financial strategy had outlived much of their practical use and will shortly become merely the dignified part of the government's policy framework. This will switch to fixing sterling against the mark. Both the Treasury and the Bank of England seem determined to run the risk of recession and make the maximum initial impact on the public mind by entering the EMS exchange rate mechanism at a high level.

Foreign exchange markets would get quite the wrong idea if

interest rates were to be cut before entry, unless 12-month growth in M0 were right at the bottom end of its target range. To them, the government has spoken tough and acted soft too often.

John Major is therefore likely to disappoint party supporters who would like him to cut interest rates around the time of the autumn party conference. Oddly, in terms of straight-forward economic management, that might well be exactly the right thing to do.

No sale at BT

The rumour that the government plans to sell its remaining holding in British Telecom before the next election has, Rasputin-like, failed

to lie down despite any amount of bludgeoning from supposedly-involved parties. Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank reportedly already courting interested institutions both at home and overseas, professes total and convincing ignorance. The Department of Trade and Industry says it is pure speculation; the Treasury knows nothing of it.

Two parties look set to gain if the rumour is true. The Conservative party would like to remove BT, and as much of the rest of the state apparatus as possible, from Labour's grasp, should disaster strike at the next election.

Currently the slim majority in the public's hands could be overturned relatively cheaply by Labour with the purchase of 2 per cent of BT in the market. Meanwhile the BT board would love to see the end of any tie with Whitehall. The rumour has one positive

factor in its favour. The forthcoming duopoly review of the telecommunications market by OfTel, which will seal BT's future, could easily be completed by next summer.

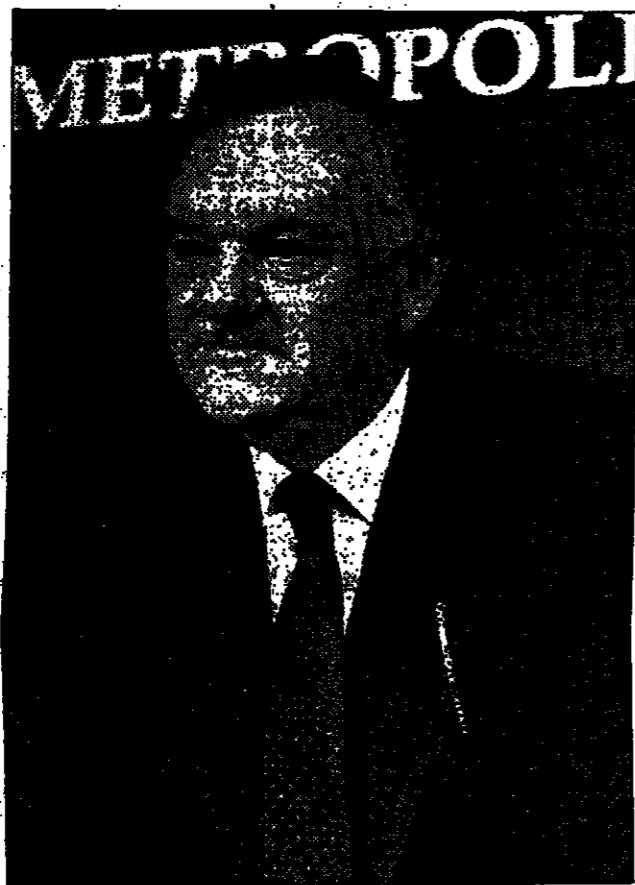
All other factors seem to weigh against a sale. There are three other privatisations in the pipeline over the next year. March is ruled out by the Budget; September is the earliest possible target date, but BT would be in danger of getting its wires entangled with an impending election.

There is a half-way house, an institutional placing of perhaps half the government's stake, which could take place any time next summer or autumn. But there are no indications the government needs the money that desperately.

So BT can hold the line. An election won, and a sale could cash in on the ensuing market euphoria; a lost election, and BT is the last of the Conservatives' problems.

BT shares therefore look like remaining for some time to come an opinion poll stock par excellence.

Fermenting fundamental change for the beerage



Sir Allen Sheppard: awaiting report from MMC

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission today delivers to Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, its recommendations in the latest brush between government and the beerage.

It will be pronouncing on the pubs and breweries swap deal put together by Grand Metropolitan and Elders PLC, the Australian owner of the Courage brewing and pub interests.

The deal is complex and some concessions have already been on offer. More are likely to have been added in discussions with the MMC. Its main options are to block the deal, let it through because the concessions are sufficient, or hold it up temporarily, subject to review.

This last option would allow time to see the effects of the changes that are being made as a result of the MMC's main report on beer supply. That has resulted in the big brewers being faced with a cutback in the number of pubs they can have while they also remain brewers.

There could be another element in that option. The single European market is approaching, with the European Commission due to consider in 1997 the future of ties that, until then, will be allowed between brewers and retail outlets.

There is likely to be open competition by the turn of the century when, to compete in a pan-European market, Britain will probably need at least one beer group that is more powerful than either Bass, currently Britain's biggest brewer, or GrandMet and Courage combined.

The MMC appeared to make its views on market shares clear when the Elders bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries was blocked.

The MMC said: "The creation of a new group that together with Bass would control over 40 per cent of the supply of beer would, in present market conditions, be expected to be anti-competitive."

This was before the MMC's watershed report on beer supply, so it could have been considering the likely effects of that — although its original proposals were watered down in government negotiations

with the industry — as well as looking ahead to the European review and market development.

If the MMC remains disturbed about two large brewers having 40 per cent or more of the British beer market then Bass, at about 23 per cent, and Courage, probably ending up with 18 per cent, would break that barrier.

Yet, with the exception of the German market, with its

leading mainland European companies is a well-known brand name in Britain. Carlsberg, which has a brewery at Northampton, is known to be keen on increasing its brewing capacity in Britain.

Whether GrandMet, led by Sir Allen Sheppard, the chairman, and Courage, with Michael Foster, the managing director, at the helm, have been prepared to make concessions that would produce a market share lower than 40 per cent remains to be seen.

The bare bones of the Courage-GrandMet deal are that GrandMet would buy out of brewing by selling its four breweries to Courage. Courage and GrandMet pubs would largely go to Intreprenuer Estates, a new company, which after disposals would end up with about 7,000 pubs.

This would be a joint venture between Courage and GrandMet, with the latter managing it on a day-to-day basis.

GrandMet would also still run about 1,700 pubs, nearly a third of them leased from Intreprenuer.

Originally the intention was that Courage would have a ten-year deal to supply beer to the Intreprenuer outlets, to be renewable after that. A concession was offered to bring the main period back to five years with a reduction of 10 per cent a year over the following five years.

Another possible concession could centre on areas where pub concentration would be high after putting together Courage and GrandMet interests.

This points to substantial scaling down of pub ownership in the Southeast, especially greater London, and much of the Southwest.

If the MMC still throws out the deal, or pushes it to the back burner, it looks likely that Sir Allen will look to sell off GrandMet's breweries elsewhere, possibly in a series of deals. The suitors could be numerous, from Anheuser-Busch to Carlsberg, with maybe even some Japanese interest, given at least Kirin's declared intention to expand in Europe.

Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Argos displays its quality

LESS than five months after its stock market debut, at 202p a share, Argos is already established as a quality retail-sector stock, worthy of mention in the same breath as Marks and Spencer.

The better than expected interim results help justify the reputation. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose by 24.2 per cent to £14.9 million on turnover up 16.5 per cent to £311.6 million, lifting fully taxed earnings per share from 2.63p to 3.23p, and permitting a maiden dividend of 2p.

Prior to flotation, Argos had been part of the BAT empire but had been managed autonomously. The only visible sign of its weaning from BAT is a £600,000 extraordinary demerger charge.

Trading profit rose by just 11.2 per cent to £10.1 million in the first half but interest receivable soared by 64.9 per cent to £4.8 million despite a £30 million annual capital expenditure programme. This was due to higher interest rates and deferral of a dividend payment to BAT.

The tax charge has jumped from £1.22 million to £3.35 million as the group no longer benefits from BAT group tax relief.

Like-for-like sales growth increased 9.1 per cent with consumer electronics, toys, furniture and sports goods particularly strong. The company benefits from a large product mix, a wide geographical spread and the perception of it as a value-for-money retailer.

Argos will open 20 stores in the second half. Eight stores were opened during the first six months and seven others

were refurbished. Thirteen will be refurbished in the second half.

Sales have started buoyantly in the second half and early results from new-catalogue sales are encouraging. The group is expected to make £77 million in the full year, putting the shares, 1p firmer at 202p on the results, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13.8. Given Argos's excellent record, the shares make a sensible addition to any growth portfolio.

Unigate

LARRY Goodman's sale of his 9 per cent holding removes what bid fever there was attached to Unigate's shares and leaves them to be assessed more or less on their fundamentals.

The sale proceeds, amounting to about £58 million, could be useful ammunition for Mr Goodman's next "sight". They will prove equally useful as cash in the bank, which under current circumstances is probably what suits Mr Goodman best.

His 13.1 per cent stake in troubled Berisford International is running up paper losses of well over £50 million, while the current conditions in the Gulf suggest his Iraqi beef trading operations will be less robust from here on, even though he was paid cash up front for deliveries. His Irish-quoted Food Industries has been a poor performer and is down to 188p from a year's peak of 325p.

Of his portfolio interests, Mr Goodman's holding in Unigate was probably the one most easily sold. The fact that the stake was so readily

snapped up by institutions speaks volumes for City thoughts that while Unigate has its short-term problems, there is investment hope yet.

Unigate's non-food interests generate 25 per cent of profits and are not the flavour of the month.

In the year to end-March, Unigate turned in pre-tax profits of £105.5 million, but that was with the help of £12.7 million of property profits taken above the line. Such property sums are unlikely to be repeated this time round. This year, Unigate could make £106 million, to put the shares at 294p on a prospective rating of 9.3 backed by a yield of 7.5 per cent.

But Mr Goodman's loss is other investors' gain. Yield attractions, and high hopes of the new management structure, once Ross Buckland from the Kellogg group moves in as chief executive in October, make Unigate a firm hold in City eyes.

Resort Hotels

THERE was a time when double-digit earnings growth could be achieved quite simply by issuing paper to finance streams of acquisitions, allowing the booming economy and the bull market do the rest. With the right formula, it seems, it can still work, at least in the short term.

This is demonstrated by Resort Hotels, the Brighton-based former BES issue now with a main market quotation. It was floated on the USM in 1988, and through an extraordinary acquisition-led growth strategy has increased the

number of hotels under its management since then from five to 30.

Capital expenditure last year, when the company made £3.62 million pre-tax, was £25 million. Yet year-end gearing is still only 27 per cent. Two chunky rights issues provided the funding for the deals. Shareholders clearly believe Resort can deliver the goods.

Yesterday's figures show that, so far, they have done just that. Even on a tax charge eight percentage points higher than last year, earnings are ahead 17 per cent at 1.85p. And with its current stock of underdeveloped properties acquired over the past year, earnings growth should be sustainable through to 1991.

But with a tax charge rising each year as the fiscal advantages of its BES origins unwind, Resort has to generate earnings growth even to stand still. To produce the sort of returns shareholders are looking for, Resort will sooner or later have to hit the acquisition trail again, preferably buying plenty of capital allowances in the process. In the meantime, management contracts provide a steady income stream without putting equity at risk.

Until the next big push, Resort has a lot going for it. Its portfolio of three-star hotels has benefited from trading down in the business market and from the trend back towards domestic holidays.

Forecasts of just over £5 million for next year put Resort on a cheap prospective p/e of about 7.5. The shares have never quite fulfilled their potential, so this could be a good time to buy.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Potential conflicts of interest for estate agents

From Mr Philip R. Storry
Sir, I refer to the correspondence (August 7 and August 14) concerning the potential conflict of interest in estate agents acting for a vendor on the sale of property and the purchaser in arranging a mortgage and linked endowment policy.

The most ominous aspect of that, in my experience, is that some estate agents have pressured vendors to accept unrealistically low offers from the purchaser of a property because they would lose considerable commission on arranging the endowment policy if the sale fell through. For that, if for no other reason, surely such an arrangement should be forbidden?

Solicitors are subject to restrictions on acting for both parties, but I wonder whether the public are fully aware that in those cases where the mortgage and endowment policy, they are legally obliged to disclose the amount of commission and to account to the

client for it in the absence of an agreement to the contrary.

Yours faithfully,
P.R. STORRY,
David Hughes & Co,
Solicitors,
Newgate Walk, The Precinct,
Chester.

From the president of the National Association of Estate Agents

Sir, The letter from Robert Foster (August 7) struck a chord. There are draft regulations, soon to be considered by Parliament, which will require estate agents to disclose at the outset to the seller whether or not they will offer, or intend to offer, any services including financial services to prospective purchasers.

It is also proposed that from January 1, 1991, it will be an undesirable practice to discriminate against a prospective purchaser where the estate agent is not, or is unlikely to be, providing other services to him.

Undesirable practices such as property misdescriptions, pretending there are higher bids for a property when there are not and failing to disclose personal interests in writing, will subject the estate agent to a warning or banning order by the director general of fair trading. My association strongly supports these proposals. Estate agents act in the best interests of the seller, and one of those interests is to ensure that the proposed purchaser has the financial ability to purchase. If the law were to forbid the seller's agent from assisting the buyer, then the seller could be seriously disadvantaged.

Under the new proposals, the seller may instruct his agent not to offer any services to a buyer and a buyer will not be pressured to take out services offered by the estate agent.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,
HUGH DUNSMORE-HARDY,
President, The National Association of Estate Agents,
Arbon House,
21 Jury Street, Warwick.

Inflationary green loans

From R.A.C. Hill

Sir, As inflation continues, there is no let up in the junk mail from banks offering loans. The latest "Barclayloan environmental special" is particularly nauseating. It consists of an application form for a loan wrapped up in a "competition" offering a parsimonious £1 to the Woodland Trust for each form signed. This is a blatant use of the environmental cachet to further disreputable loan policies. There is no environmental advantage in a bank loan which increases consumption and aggravates inflation.

The avicious activities of the banks are so patently against the national interest that the government and Bank of England should act against them now. Yours faithfully,
R.A.C. HILL,
The Saplings,
Sildesham, Chichester,
West Sussex.

to employees throughout the industry", but he should forget it. This has gone down like a lead balloon. If he really wants to encourage employee share ownership he should back our proposals, now supported by PowerGen management, for a management/employee buyout instead, as of now, allowing his department actively to try to frustrate it.

While Mr Wakeham, who is a likeable man, is not responsible for the sorry mess that privatisation of electricity has become, he is responsible for the mess over the sale of PowerGen. My advice to him is not to try to blame the unions for it, for that will not wash, but to extricate himself (and PowerGen) as quickly as he can.

Yours truly,
JOHN LYONS,
General Secretary, EMA,
Station House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey, Surrey.

PowerGen 'mess'

From the general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, That Mr John Wakeham (energy secretary) should reply on July 30 to my article on July 26 suggests that what I wrote went near to the bone.

My article expressed the view (which I believe is widely shared) that the government has made a terrible mess of privatising a great and efficient public industry. Mr Wakeham replied by accusing me of nostalgia, which I thought was rather beside the point. He knows very well that the trade unions in the industry have faced up to the fact that the government has the support of Parliament in proceeding with privatisation and have spent no time in seeking to recreate the public service industry we had, good though it was.

In October 1987, Mr Cecil

Parkinson (then energy secretary) was able to boast to the House of Commons that our public service electricity industry had tariffs which were "the lowest in Europe". If that is also "nostalgia" a lot of people will share it, for Mr Wakeham is unable to make any such claim today. Nor will he be able to forecast when, or even if, our electricity prices will again occupy that position as a result of privatisation.

Mr Wakeham justified his decision to encourage the Hanson bid for PowerGen with the statement that "while everything... said in Parliament... assumed a public flotation of the companies... other means of privatisation were never ruled out".

That really is scraping the barrel. When we met Mr Parkinson in May 1988, he made it absolutely clear that his undertaking to Parliament to limit any one shareholder to a 15 per cent stake was to ensure that no one person or organisation

should be able to dominate any of the new companies; in the case of the generating and Scottish companies this was a timeless concept.

Mr Wakeham's interest in selling PowerGen to Hanson is simply a repudiation of his own government's policy. And, since we have been assured that a public sale is still a serious option, what on earth for? Hanson has absolutely no track record in running a technologically advanced major public utility, let alone one commanding one third of our power supplies. For what purpose can Mr Wakeham be contemplating putting any outside organisation with no experience of running a major generating utility in charge of it? All he has succeeded in doing is dropping a large monkey-wrench into his own plans which, up to then, had been going along relatively smoothly.

Mr Wakeham refers to his "attractive special share offer

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The power of love

THE energy department would hardly be a typical setting for a Mills & Boon romance, but it was, nevertheless, where City economist Jeffrey Thompson met his wife, Margaret. "It's all very boring," says Thompson, aged 43, with customary cynicism. "But I was on secondment to the department at the time."

Thompson was initially an economic adviser to the British embassies in New Delhi and, later, Amman, in Jordan, in the Seventies, before being seconded to the energy department from 1978-84. While his wife went on to become an assistant secretary, and is advising on the privatisation of the electricity distribution companies in November, Thompson left to join BZW, where he became chief equity strategist. He has now been poached by Lehman Brothers, an American firm. In his new job he has become a pan-European strategist, which will incorporate the United Kingdom. "This is something most London-based houses don't do very well. I intend to do it extremely well," says Thompson, adding that because of "piddling volumes" it was no longer viable to concentrate on the UK alone. A graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford — he gained a first in PPE — he was a pupil at Quarry Bank High School, Merseyside, the school attended, he says, by two of the Beatles. "I think I was there at

the same time as John Lennon, but I can't remember which one the other one was. I'm not at all interested in popular music."

A FESTIVAL of American films in the southern state of Virginia has released details of its opening choice, a 1924 silent epic starring Douglas Fairbanks: *The Thief of Baghdad*.

Eastward ho

THE Singaporean broking firm Kim Eng Securities, which is expanding its overseas presence, has recruited three British-based members of the Far Eastern equity sales team at Smith New Court, and one from New York. Chan Kengloke, resident in New York, and David Pirks, Michael Hughes and Tan Jui Wen, all operating from London, resigned from Smith New Court a week ago. They will be replaced by both internal and external candidates. "It is not that significant," says Philip Kay, head of Smith's Far Eastern desk. "To put it in perspective, we have nearly 20 salesmen covering the Pacific side of the business in London and we employ 250 people in Pacific broking worldwide."

No bed of roses

A PR's job is not all massaging clients' egos, as the chaps at City & Commercial will tell you. They are handling public relations for Ernst & Young, the receiver to Lowndes Queensway, the furniture

group that went into receivership last week. After a hectic time fielding questions on the collapsed company, Paul Taylor and Hugh Sharp, of C&C, had an even more harrowing weekend. For several of the closed Queensway stores had posted their home telephone numbers on the shop doors and they were inundated with calls from customers. Those calls included one from a woman whose wedding is next week. She is still awaiting the delivery of a double bed.

IN VICTORIA, Australia, a radio programme host ran a competition among listeners to suggest a new name for Kuwait if its "annexation" to Iraq were to become permanent. The winning entry, suggested by an Egyptian, was... *Irate*.

Game of the name

AS PIPEMAKER Accles & Pollock recognised a few years ago, having a funny name can lead to a lot of humorous tongue-twisting. So much so that the company turned the confusion to its advantage by using some of the sillier variations, such as Hackles & Pollocks and Winkles & Scollop, in an advertising campaign. Now Newman, Biris & Partners, a City-based financial adviser, is facing a similar problem. "We get called all sorts of different things," says Bob Newman, the chairman — ranging from Newman Burst, Birds and Burkes to Baris and Brits. In the hope of coming up with a number of silly slogans for his own advertising campaign, Newman is

now offering a magnum of Krug champagne to the City Diary reader who can dream up the funniest variation.

Newberry service

A SERVICE of thanksgiving for the life and work of Michael Newberry, former deputy city editor of the *Sunday Express*, and one of the most popular bon vivants in the Square Mile, will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon next Tuesday.

Grandfather figure

TERRY Wood, the gilt-edged salesman at Sheppards, who was identified in last week's City Diary as possibly the only grandfather still working in the gilt market, is, it seems, not alone after all. After scouring his favourite column, albeit two or three days late, Barry Pearl, the director in charge of small gilt market-making at UBS Phillips & Drew, telephoned me from his holiday home in Miami, Florida, to say that he too was a grandfather — twice over. "I became a grandfather three years ago, but I don't think there are any more of us anywhere else," quipped Pearl, aged 55, anxious to put the record straight. He added that his holiday was improving daily, as the pound strengthened against the dollar. "The pound being at \$1.90 makes a tremendous difference," he said, en route for his palm-fringed swimming pool.

CAROL LEONARD

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

هكذا من الاصل

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your daily share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches your share money statement or a share of the daily claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies and their share prices.

Table with 7 columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, and Sunday. Shows weekly dividend data.

Two winners shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr John Alderson, of Wandsworth, London, and Mr Norman Hearn, of Stotfold, Bedfordshire, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, and Price. Lists various British funds and their prices.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various funds for the 5-15 year category.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various funds for the over 15 years category.

UNDATED

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various undated funds.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various index-linked funds.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various bank and discount funds.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Renewed losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 20. Dealings end September 7. Contango day September 10. Settlement day September 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 18)

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies and their share prices.

BREWERIES

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various breweries and their share prices.

BUILDING, ROADS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various building and road companies.

FINANCE, LAND

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various finance and land companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various financial trusts.

FOODS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various food companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various chemicals and plastics companies.

DRAPERY, STORES

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various drapery and store companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various electrical companies.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies and their share prices.

E-K

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies in the E-K category.

L-R

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies in the L-R category.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various industrial companies A-D.

S-Z

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies S-Z.

HOTELS, CATERERS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various hotels and caterers.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various industrial companies A-D.

S-Z

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INSURANCE

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various leisure companies.

MINING

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various mining companies.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various motors and aircraft companies.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various newspapers and publishers.

OILS, GAS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various oil and gas companies.

TOBACCO

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various tobacco companies.

TRANSPORT

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various transport companies.

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various overseas traders.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various paper, print, and advertising companies.

PROPERTY

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various property companies.

SHOES, LEATHER

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various shoes and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various textile companies.

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WATER

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Portfolio PLATINUM

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Another way of giving legal aid

Law centres, which began to be set up in the Seventies, were meant to serve the "un-met legal needs of the underprivileged". People deterred by the cost and image of private practice solicitors could attend a community law centre, in informal surroundings, where advice on questions affecting the underprivileged could be answered.

The law centres did not have an easy ride, however. The private profession, which was fulfilling some of that need through the legal aid scheme, was unhappy about groups of publicly funded lawyers providing what it said was a "lower-quality service" and taking away some of their work.

A law centre, therefore, could exist only if it was granted a waiver by the Law Society. This would allow the centre to break the society's no-touting rules and let them advertise their work and location. The centre lawyers, in return, had to promise not to encroach on areas that provided the bread and butter, and some of the jam, of the private profession. This meant they could not be involved in adult crime, or family law, apart from emergency applications, or property matters in general, including conveyancing.



With the traditional work barriers easing between lawyers, Avrom Sherr suggests that law centres could move into wider specialities

Most centres and their lawyers were content with these strictures. They were not the areas of law in which they wanted to practise. The system worked fairly well. The private practitioners could go on with their areas of work without competing with lawyers paid a salary from local or central government or charitable sources.

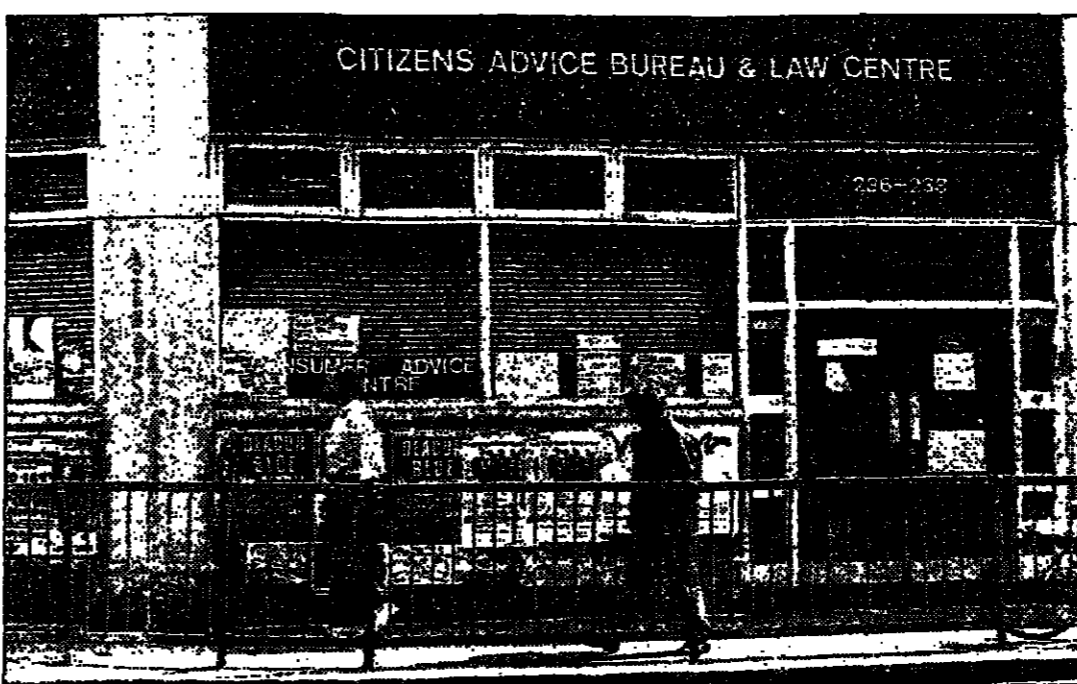
otherwise have never seen the light of day.

The environment has, however, changed. Old monopolies have begun to disappear. Conveyancing was liberalised in 1986 and the courts and legal services bill, now ready for royal assent, will allow banks and building societies to join in.

The old rules against touting and advertising also disappeared in 1986 and have been liberalised twice since then. Waivers, at least for this purpose, are probably not now necessary. Law centre social workers may be able to acquire rights of audience under the bill, and "para-legals" — people who specialise in legal work, but who are not solicitors — may be able to carry out probate work.

Legal aid work and its funding have also changed incomparably since 1970, and only half the number of people eligible for legal aid then are eligible now. The work is less well-paid and, therefore, much less attractive to private practitioners.

Some kinds of legal aid work are also about to be contracted out by a new legal aid board. The old demarcation lines have gone and it is open season on work and



A law centre in east London: is the present system the best way to offer the public legal aid?

client hunting for all lawyers.

It is interesting to see the recent suggestion by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, that young lawyers should cut their teeth on legal aid work, before working their way up to commercial and company work.

Lord Mackay is, of course, working on a barristerial model of practice, which is very different from conditions within the solicitors' profession. Young barristers do carry out legally aided criminal law and other cases in their early careers and some of

them move on to more commercial sets of chambers, although this is not true of all barristers.

Solicitors enter articles of training with one firm in a widely differentiated profession, specialising in areas that usually service either predominantly large company and commercial clients or less wealthy individual clients and smaller businesses. It would be unusual for a lawyer trained within one increasingly specialised area to move to the other.

What of the middle ground? What about people who need legal help but are just above the income and capital limits of the legal aid scheme? Is there not a legal service that might be made available for them that they can afford?

One possibility is the legal "clinic" model of law firm in the United States, which provides specialised legal work for people of moderate means.

Setting up such clinics as private practices is starting slowly in this country. The operation depends on a high turnover of cases, carried out by groups of specialists, of whom most will be par-

legals dealing with the more time-consuming work of client-handling. The qualified lawyers are more likely to be drafting letters and instruments that will form the basis of the multi-use package.

But what then of the career structure for lawyers who start their careers within law centres or advice services? There is little natural progression for them. Do they become a poacher turned gamekeeper and join the Crown Prosecution Service, or do they simply go into private practice, trying to make money out of legal aid within areas similar to those covered by the law centre?

Perhaps law centres should now take the chance to work within areas previously denied to them. This would broaden their staff experience, provide further funding, at least from legal aid money, and present more of a set of career opportunities for those entering law centre service.

They may not decide to do conveyancing, but the old lines of demarcation have disappeared and a new set of approaches to legal services for those of fairly poor and moderate means must be worked through.

Whether or not the Lord Chancellor's view is either realistic or desirable, it throws light on an important set of manpower and remuneration difficulties. Our views on these need to be re-worked within the boundaries of the new environment. Older approaches to familiar issues may not be relevant when the rest of the world is changing.

The author is director of legal practice at the School of Law, Warwick University.

Law Report August 21 1990 Court of Appeal

Guidelines for disqualifying directors after infringements of company law

In re Sevenoaks Stationers (Retail) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton (Judgment July 31)

A company which had decided that a company director was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company and therefore that a disqualification order was to be made against him under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, was not entitled, in fixing the length of the period of disqualification, to take into account allegations of misconduct of which the director had not been given notice.

The non-payment by a company of sums due to the Crown in respect of pay-as-you-earn, national insurance contributions and value-added tax, collectively known as Crown debts, was not automatically to

be regarded as evidence of unfitness of the director.

The Court of Appeal, giving guidance in the first appeal against a disqualification order which had come to that court, so stated in reserved judgments when reducing to five years a disqualification for seven years which had been imposed on Mr Michael Charles Cruddas by Mr Justice Harman on November 15, 1989.

Section 6 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) The court shall make a disqualification order against a person in any case where, on an application under this section, it is satisfied — (a) that he is or has been a director of a company which has at any time become insolvent, and (b) that his conduct as a director of that company (either taken alone or taken together with his conduct as a director of any other company or companies) makes him unfit to be con-

cerned in the management of a company".

Mr Alan Steinfield, QC and Miss Juliette Walker for Mr Cruddas; Mr A. W. H. Charles and Mr Martin Keenan for the Official Receiver.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that Mr Cruddas, a chartered accountant, and a Mr Hooker, who had originally been a lorry driver, had been directors of five trading companies, one of which was Sevenoaks Stationers (Retail) Ltd. The companies had become insolvent and gone into liquidation, with a total net deficiency of nearly £600,000. A three-year disqualification was imposed on Mr Hooker by Mr Registrar Buckley before Mr Cruddas's case was heard.

It followed from the provisions in the Act that if a judge was going to disqualify a person he had to be satisfied, *inter alia*,

that the person's conduct "made him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company". The first point taken in the appeal was that the judge had not specifically made such a finding, and therefore that the order should be set aside, whatever Mr Cruddas's shortcomings.

However, taking the judgment as a whole, there was no doubt that the judge was so satisfied.

The main point urged on the appeal was that the period of seven years was too long. It had been argued that since the disqualification order had been made by the judge in his discretion, the appellate court could only interfere on the grounds set out in *G v G (Minors: Custody Appeal)* [(1985) 1 WLR 647] or *Hadnor Productions Ltd v Hamilton* [(1983) 1 AC 191].

His Lordship did not wholly share that view in the present case, as guidelines had not yet been laid down and fairness required that there should be a degree of similarity between the periods of disqualification imposed by different judges or courts for similar offences.

His Lordship was disturbed by statistics which showed that in 1989 and the first six months of 1990 many more disqualifications for more than five years had been imposed in county courts than in the High Court. It would be surprising if cases brought in the High Court were significantly less serious than those brought in the county court.

Section 6(4) of the 1986 Act provided that the minimum period of disqualification was two years, and the maximum 15 years. His Lordship endorsed the suggestion that the potential 15-year disqualification period should be divided into three brackets:

1. The top bracket, for periods over 10 years, should be reserved for particularly serious cases, which might include cases where a director who had already had one period of disqualification fell to be disqualified yet again.

2. The bracket of two to five years should be applied where, although disqualification was mandatory, the case was relatively not very serious.

3. The intermediate bracket should apply for serious cases which did not merit the top bracket.

The test, "makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company", involved ordinary words which should be simple to apply in most cases. It was most important to hold to those words in each case.

His Lordship deplored what seemed to have been the tendency on the part of the Bar, and possibly also of the Official Receiver's Department, to treat statements in reported cases as judicial paraphrases of the statutory words which fell to be construed as a matter of law in lieu of the words of the statute.

In *re Lo-Line Electric Motors Ltd* [(1988) Ch 477, 486], Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, said that it was necessary that the director should know the substance of the charges that he had to meet.

He said: "The practice of the Official Receiver is to summarise the allegations of misconduct on which he is going to rely in the affidavit in support. This procedure is plainly both desirable and necessary."

That was not merely good practice; it was a requirement of the statutory rules made under the Act. The difficulty remained that, as a result of evidence subsequently filed or for some other reason, the Official Receiver might wish to change the nature of the allegations on which he was going to rely, or to add further allegations.

The court had a discretion to allow the Official Receiver to rely on the altered or additional charges provided that he had done without injustice to the accused director. What justice required would depend on the circumstances of the particular case; the paramount requirement was that the director must know the charges he had to meet.

Mr Charles submitted that even if in making out his case for disqualification the Official Receiver could only rely on the allegations made in his report and/or affidavit, yet when the court came to fix the length of the period of disqualification it could take into account any other shortcomings in the director's conduct as a director, in other words, the director could be sentenced not only on the charges on which he had been convicted, but also on charges which were never made against him, if they happened to be made out in the evidence given.

His Lordship emphatically disagreed. It would be wholly wrong if in fixing the period of disqualification other matters could be alleged of which no notice had been given.

Matters of mitigation could of course be taken into account in favour of the director, but otherwise the period should be fixed by reference only to the matters properly alleged against him which had been found to be established and to make him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

His Lordship considered the allegations against Mr Cruddas in relation to each of the five companies, which had been properly summarised in a report by the Deputy Official Receiver, Mr Bennett.

They included failure to keep proper accounting records of one company, failure to file annual returns with the Registrar of Companies, causing a loan to be made by one company to another when Mr Cruddas knew or ought to have known that there was no prospect of repayment, misrepresenting the trading position of a company to a creditor, causing companies to continue to trade while insolvent, and the retention of Crown debts.

Although the allegations were substantially proved, unfortunately the judge, in an extreme judgment after a hearing throughout which Mr Cruddas had appeared in person, had found further allegations established which had not been made in Mr Bennett's report.

In particular, he had found a failure to keep proper accounting records, in respect of other companies, which had not been entitled to make those findings.

The next issue was that of Crown debts. There had been a considerable difference in approach by various judges of the Chancery Division to the significance of Crown debts in relation to the disqualification of directors.

Mr Justice Harman in the present case said there was a total of Crown debts outstanding of the order of £120,000. He said that, in his judgment, a badge of commercial immorality to cause moneys which have been taken under force of law from third parties, to be not paid over to the Crown.

In earlier cases the same judge had regarded such debts as "quasi-trust moneys". That view had not been followed by other judges, and the Official Receiver did not seek to resurrect it.

His Lordship entirely agreed with the different view expressed by Mr Justice Hoffmann in *re Dawson Print Group Ltd* [(1987) BCLC 601, 604]: "The fact is that, no doubt for good reasons, the Exchequer assigned the Commissioners of Customs and Excise have chosen to appoint traders to be tax collectors on their behalf with the attendant risk, that risk is, to some extent, compensated by the preference which they have on insolvency."

"There is, as yet, no obligation on traders to keep such moneys in a separate account as there might be if they really were trust moneys. They are simply a debt owed by the company to the Revenue or the Commissioners of Customs and Excise."

"I cannot accept that failure to pay these debts is regarded in the commercial world generally as such a breach of commercial morality that it requires in itself a conclusion that the directors concerned are unfit to be involved in the management of the company."

His Lordship apprehended that the current consensus of the Chancery Division judges was expressed in a passage in *Lo-Line* (at pp487-488), which concluded: "Although the Crown debts are not strictly trust moneys, the failure to pay them over does not only prejudice the Crown, as creditor, but in the case of PAYE and national insurance, they also have a prejudicial effect on the company's employees."

"I consider the use of the moneys which should have been paid to the Crown to finance continuation of an insolvent company's business more culpable than the failure to pay commercial debts."

"There would be validity in that if it were correct that the failure to pay over to the Crown moneys deducted from the wages of employees might have a prejudicial effect on the employees."

Enquiries made by both parties in the present appeal had, however, disclosed that no such prejudice was to be found.

The Inland Revenue rightly accepted that the burden of a failure by the employer, as the Crown's appointed collector, to pay over to the Crown moneys deducted for PAYE or national insurance contributions must fall on the Crown and not on the employees; the employees were credited with what had been deducted from their wages even though what had been deducted had not been paid over to the Crown.

Moreover, although the Crown had powers under the Social Security Act 1975 and previous such Acts to sue the directors personally for non-payment of arrears of insurance contributions deducted from wages, those powers were abolished by the Insolvency Act 1985.

Further, no one suggested that a customer who had paid VAT to a company as part of the price to him of goods sold or services rendered to him, had to pay VAT again to the Customs and Excise or was in any other way prejudiced if the company failed to account for VAT received by it.

The Official Receiver could not automatically treat non-payment of any Crown debt as evidence of unfitness of the directors. It was necessary to look closely in each case to see what the practical effect, if any, of such non-payment was.

Certain Crown debts in the present case had been allowed to accumulate at a time of ever greater difficulties, to the directors' knowledge.

Mr Cruddas had made a deliberate decision to pay only those creditors who pressed for payment, with the obvious result that the two companies particularly concerned had traded, without a fact of insolvency, at a loss to the Crown of the expense of creditors who like the Crown happened not to be pressing for payment.

Such conduct on the part of a director could well be relied on as a ground for saying that he was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

But what was relevant, as to the Crown's position, was not that the debt arose from a compulsory deduction from employees' wages or was a compulsory payment of VAT, but that the Crown was not pressing for payment and the director was taking unfair advantage of that forbearance and the difficulties of adequate working capital, was trading at the Crown's expense while the company was in jeopardy.

It would be equally unfair to trade in that way and in such circumstances at the expense of creditors other than the Crown. The Crown was the more exposed not from the nature of the debts but from the administrative problem it had in pursuing them as against companies that into difficulties.

The present was not a case in which the director had, in the colloquial phrase, "ripped off" the public and pocketed the proceeds; on the contrary, Mr Cruddas had lost a lot of his own money which he had put into two of the companies.

However, there had been incomplete or negligence in a very marked degree. It was not necessary for incompetence to be "total", as suggested by the Vice-Chancellor in *Lo-Line* (at p486).

If the judge had not erred in taking into account findings of *inter alia*, absence of proper accounting records — a very serious matter — which he had not been entitled to make, Mr Cruddas's period of disqualification should be longer than that imposed on Mr Hooker, the absence of proper financial control, which was Mr Cruddas's responsibility, was the main reason for the failure of the five companies.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Jeffrey Green Russell; Treasury Solicitor.

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THE LAW

Much ado about concession

As the Lord Chancellor's reform bill clears the Commons and nears its royal assent, Frances Gibb looks at possible winners and losers, and explains why the battle is not over

People could be forgiven for wondering whether lawyers have managed to kill stone dead the Lord Chancellor's reforms of the legal profession. Since the green papers came out 18 months ago, the vitriolic rhetoric from the judges and the Bar — "the most sinister document to emanate from government" — has subsided. But what has happened to the proposals that were heralded as the biggest reforms of the profession this century, or, depending on the viewpoint, as portending the death of the independent Bar and state control of the courts?

Just before the lawyers left for the summer vacation, the courts and legal services bill completed its passage in the Commons. It is now on course for royal assent in the autumn, and already verdicts are being pronounced.

Tony Holland, the newly elected president of the Law Society, the professional body of the 60,000 solicitors in England and Wales, has called the bill tame; a pale shadow of the excitement captured in the green papers. The original proposals, he says, promised to deliver so much. What has emerged is disappointingly diluted.

Both original and present reforms are about breaking monopolies and widening consumer choice in the way legal services are delivered. Yet, despite this wide remit, it has been the question of advocacy rights — where sectional rivalry between

the profession's two branches is keenest — that has provoked most debate. Lawyers, or judges, have dominated the debates in both Houses: in the Commons, Labour's frontbench lawyers, who were expected to align themselves with consumer interests, often found common cause with their profession. The club, one observer noted, was more powerful than the party.

The lobby was a formidable one. The Bar moved away from its high profile, arguably over-zealous, campaign against the government's reforms en bloc and instead sustained a dogged opposition on points of detail, which achieved a number of, albeit small, changes to its advantage. The biggest of these was to have included in the bill the much-vaunted cab-rank rule, under which advocates must take cases in strict rotation. This will put solicitor-advocates under the same obligation as barristers: they will be unable to refuse any case because of its nature, opinions of the client or the source of his funding.

But the victory ended there. The Bar failed to persuade the government to ensure solicitor-advocates will not be able to refuse a legal aid case because of inadequate pay, despite attempts to force its hand by publicly stating that barristers were so bound. As one official put it, "if anything would have been state control, an obligation to do legal aid work would have been it". However, it was not in the bill's passage



that the real changes of substance were obtained. There is no doubt that, overall, Lord Mackay has succeeded in preserving his bill largely intact. In part, that is because the fundamental concessions had already been made. It was in the crucial gap between green and white papers last summer that he bowed to his critics; in particular, the special debate last spring in the Lords, when senior judges one by one castigated the proposals, had its effect. The resulting white paper was a substantial retreat and the bill reflected that.

Out went the hated proposal for a complex licensing system for advocates, attacked as encroachment by the executive on the judiciary. Also out were proposals for barristers and solicitors to form partnerships and for the public to have direct access to barristers (not just through a solicitor). Both measures, which would have been a marked step towards a fused profession, are now up to the profession itself to determine.

Finally, the judges were brought into the picture. They acquired a key role in approving, with the Lord

Chancellor, the new rules that will allow solicitor-advocates into the higher courts.

So what is left for the consumer? How have such changes diminished the impact of the reforms?

Despite impressions, the bill is about more than sectional battles on rights of audience. Much of it concerns down-loading a bulk of cases from higher to lower courts so that disputes can be handled at a lower tier of the civil justice system. In time, that should cut delays and costs.

Second, opening up the conveyancing market to banks and building societies will give the house buyer the chance to "one-stop shop", getting all his services under one roof if he wants; although the concern remains that such supermarket services could drive out the solicitor "corner shops".

Third, a limited form of "no win, no fee" scheme is coming in, along Scottish lines, enabling lawyers to defer their fees in certain cases and take an uplift at the end if successful. Lastly, there is the question of

advocacy rights. Far fewer consumers are likely to benefit from changes which allow a choice of advocate than from changes to conveyancing. Yet these reforms are at the heart of the bill. The outcome is a measure, more than any other, of the extent to which the government has taken on the profession and won.

In publishing his proposals, Lord Mackay made clear he intended to end the long-running dispute between the two branches of the profession on advocacy rights. The profession's own failure to abolish what had become a publicly festering sore was one main reason the bill came forward at all.

In the Law Society's view, however, the risk remains "that after all the rhetoric, the bill will settle very little". Any progress on rights of audience could yet be frustrated by the reluctance of the judges to see the Bar's monopoly of these rights in the higher courts broken. The judges could still thwart the reforms.

It could be years before consumers enjoy the full benefits of the reforms. But whether they do, rather than when, depends crucially on this next stage of drawing up the ground rules, and both branches are already preparing for battle.

The government has put the ball back in the profession's court. It has not directly legislated for change, but rather created the machinery for it, through a complex system of consultation between the profession, judges, the director-general of fair trading, the Lord Chancellor and his proposed new lay-dominated advisory committee.

The appointments to this committee, and its chairman, are critical. The machinery must then show it can deliver the promised goods.

● The author is the Legal Affairs Correspondent of The Times.

INNS AND OUTS

Crying for Argentina

Amnesty International's lawyers group has called on its members to join a campaign against the reintroduction of the death penalty in Argentina, which hosted the last biennial International Bar Association conference in September 1988. The choice of Buenos Aires was in part a recognition of the enormous improvements in human rights in Argentina under the then president, Raúl Alfonsín. The proposal to reintroduce the death penalty, which was abolished for ordinary criminal offences in 1984 after the country returned to civilian rule in the wake of the Falklands war, is a personal campaign by the new president, Carlos Menem.

Lawyers involved with Amnesty have been asked to appeal to senior members of both of Argentina's main political parties, pointing out that the reintroduction of the death penalty would put Argentina in breach of the international treaty obligations it assumed by ratifying the American Convention on Human Rights in 1984. If the death penalty is reinstated, Argentina will be the first member of the Organisation of American States to act in breach of the treaty, which will set a dangerous precedent in the region.

The American Bar Association has announced the launch of a Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (Ceeli). The ABA says this is the biggest external project to be undertaken by the association. James Silkman, the chairman of the Section of International Law and Practice, says: "This may be the model for what United Kingdom and other European lawyers eventually will work towards in Eastern Europe."

The initiative will assist East European countries in the process of modifying or restructuring their laws and legal systems. Working on the premise that a commercial legal infrastructure will facilitate economic integration into the global economy, Ceeli will set up an institute located in an East European city to act as a conference and workshop centre.

Ceeli's aim is to help countries achieve an independent judiciary, constitutional reforms, guarantees of basic human rights and protection from arbitrary government actions.

The announcement follows the June meeting in Istanbul of the ministers of justice of the Council of Europe, when it agreed to set up a mechanism to assist the eastern bloc in reforming laws to democratic standards. It can only be hoped that the beneficiaries of all this multinational advice are able to develop a suitable system for their individual countries.

Barristers suffering post-holiday blues can cheer themselves up with a late booking to the annual Bar conference at the New Connaught Rooms in London on September 22 and 23. Solicitors are not invited, even though one of the workshops on the first day seems to advocate a robust approach to delegation at the Bar.

Workshop F, "New methods and new markets — how to flourish post-Mackay", claims that "immense personal and professional benefits will flow to any barrister who takes full advantage of modern techniques and recent changes in the code of conduct — we show you how!"

Other sessions will cover legislative milestones such as the Children Act, "green" law, the inevitable 1992, now renamed "the new market" and video-conferencing, tipped as "bringing the Bar to the people, here and abroad". Who could resist?

The old saying that lawyers benefit whatever the climate is proving true. As the international force lines up eyeball to eyeball with Iraq's forces along the Kuwaiti border, the lawyers in firms such as Lovell White Durrant, Norton Rose and Linklaters & Paines are beefing up on the law of *force majeure* in anticipation of a flood of work relating to the invasion of Kuwait.

SCRIVENOR

Henry Whitcomb lifts the lid of the long-simmering compensation cauldron

Selling accident victims short

THE accusation in a report by the Institute of Economic Affairs that judges are selling accident victims short has reopened a debate over low compensation levels that has been simmering for at least 20 years.

The controversy centres on the method used to assess an injured person's future financial losses, the bulk of which normally consist of his or her loss of earnings and the cost of medical care.

The guiding principle in compensating for injury is simple: it should, as far as money can, place the victim in the same position as he or she would have been if the wrong had not been sustained.

Yet the report's author, Dr

Henry Whitcomb, says that the "unsophisticated and intuitive" method used by the courts has consistently failed to achieve this aim: that the judges have blatantly refused to employ standard financial techniques when calculating personal injury damages, with the result that accident victims have been severely under-compensated.

He cites an example in which a claimant would have received two and a half times the amount awarded if a principled arithmetical approach had been adopted.

Criticism of the way in which compensation is as-

sessed is not new. In 1979, the Pearson royal commission report on civil liability and compensation for personal injury stated that "lump sums calculated on the present basis are unlikely to provide full year by year replacement of the plaintiff's loss of income".

Further, David Kemp, QC, author of the lawyers' bible on damages, *Kemp and Kemp*, has campaigned for years for a change in the judges' approach. He believes that the principle of full compensation has been prejudiced by inflexible and unsound evidence-

ential rules of thumb which effectively exclude the use of expert actuarial and economic advice.

For claimants, faced with the prospect of their compensation being eroded by inflation, the situation is far from satisfactory. The introduction of index-linked periodic payments is undoubtedly the best solution. However, structured settlements are likely to take several years to gain widespread acceptance, and even then, claimants may still opt for part or all of the award or settlement to be in the

traditional lump sum form. It seems inevitable that if justice is to be done and the injured fully compensated for their losses, the judges must use the best information and advice available to them. In the most complex case, this may mean more general acceptance of actuarial as expert witnesses.

In the majority of claims, however, actuarial tables produced specifically for personal injury litigation could be used as the primary basis of assessment.

This is hardly a radical move, considering that the tables were drawn up more than five years ago by the government actuary's department, acting on the unanimous recommendations of a working party, chaired by Sir Michael Ogden, QC, and which included representatives of the Faculty and the Institute of Actuaries, the Faculty of Advocates, the Bar and both Law Societies.

Given the tables' pedigree, it is incomprehensible that the judges have not felt able to use them instead of the existing arbitrary method of calculating damages.

Simply, under-compensation is too high a price for further judicial caution.

● The author is a member of the Citizens Action Compensation Campaign.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LONDON

- **City Banking**
Major firm requires a solicitor with up to 3 yrs relevant experience to join its banking section which also undertakes general corporate work. Caseload will include project financing, loan documentation and financing agreements.
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Leading firm in this field seeks a senior non-contentious construction solicitor with excellent technical and practical experience. Work will involve all aspects of construction contracts, particularly JCT forms, collateral agreements, appointments and related matters.
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PROVINCES

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THE LAW SOCIETY

Commercial Legal Adviser

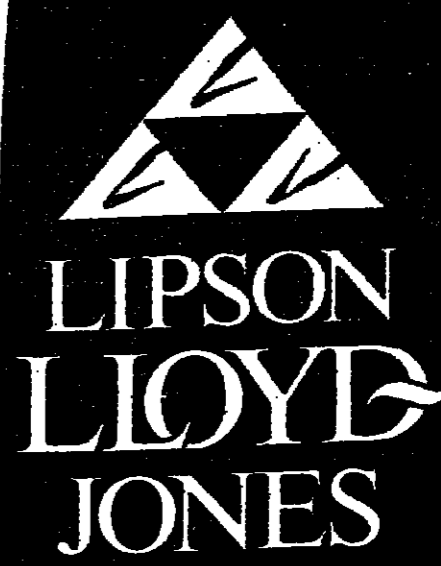
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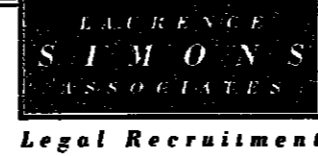
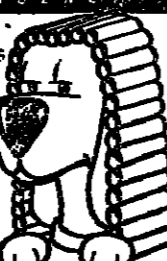
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Dolpour for a Stoute repeat

By MANDARIN

MICHAEL Stoute, who captured the 1986 Juddmonte International Stakes with the Aga Khan's Shadwell, can repeat the performance for the same owner today, this time with his high-class four-year-old Dolpour.

This group one event is traditionally the highlight of the opening day of the York Ebor meeting and, with the dual Guinness winner Tirol defecting overnight, this year's contest looks wide open.

To give Dolpour a chance, one must forget his last effort, a disappointing fifth in the Prince of Wales Stakes at Royal Ascot, but the Stoute stable was clearly out of salts with just one success at the meeting.

Three of today's rivals, Balthous, Relief Pitcher and Terimon, dominated the finish of that race, with Balthous prevailing by a short head, but on earlier form, in the Gordon Richards Stakes at Sandown Park, Dolpour came out on top, beating last year's Inter-

national Stakes winner He De Chyvre a neck with Balthous the same distance away third and Relief Pitcher fifth.

Dolpour always needs plenty of time to recover from his races, but at his best he is a top-class performer with an excellent turn of foot and he can take his revenge today at attractive odds.

David Elsworth's In The Groove must be respected. She also failed to give her true running last time out, struggling home in fourth place behind Salsabil in the Oaks at Epsom. However, earlier this season the daughter of Night Shift had collected the Musidora Stakes over today's course and distance and also showed good pace to land the Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Dick Hern's Elmaamal is another three-year-old who comes into the reckoning on his battling Coral-Eclipse victory over Clive Brittain's Terimon at Sandown where Relief Pitcher was well in arrears that day.

Another interesting con-

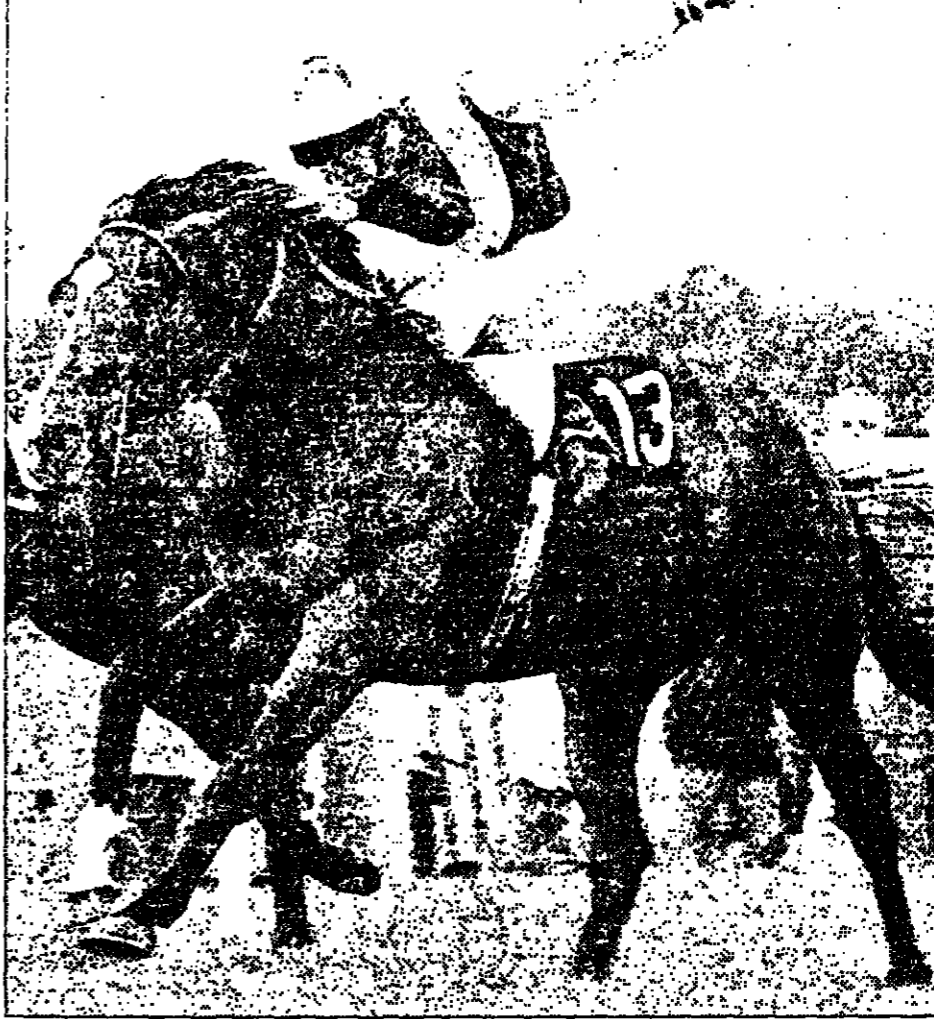
ter is Ian Balding's Dashing Blade who, after returning to form with a victory in the Prix Eugene Adam at Saint-Cloud, was beaten on merit by that fine German horse Turkfong at Munich.

Barry Hills is represented by his Curragh winner Missionary Ridge and Negligent, who has been out of action since finishing third behind Salsabil in the 1,000 Guineas. She had won the Rockfoll Stakes at Newmarket in good style as a juvenile and should certainly pay her way this autumn.

However, I am looking to Walter Swinburn, wearing the famous green and red colours, triumphing with a telling challenge from Dolpour.

The Stoute camp can complete a notable double in the two-mile Lonsdale Stakes where Teamster is fancied to regain the winning thread.

This useful stayer had his speed blunted when struggling home in fourth place behind Ashal in the Ascot Gold Cup, run in saturated conditions, and ought to be able to reverse



Henry Cecil's gallant King George winner Belmez will be a warm order to follow up successfully against four rivals in today's Great Voltigeur Stakes at York

By Mandarin	By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.05 Act Of Diplomacy. 2.35 MILLONNAIRE'S ROW. 3.10 Dolpour. 3.45 Belmez. 4.15 Resolute Bay. 4.45 Teamster. 5.15 QUAGLINO (nap).	2.05 Act Of Diplomacy. 2.35 MILLONNAIRE'S ROW (nap). 3.10 Dolpour. 3.45 Belmez. 4.15 Yastirous. 4.45 Wajna. 5.15 Green's Trilogy.

By Michael Seely
2.35 MILLONNAIRE'S ROW (nap). 3.10 Dolpour. 3.45 Belmez.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.35 BESITO.

Guide to our in-line racecard	
105 (12) 0-0-0-0 0000 TIMES 74 (COUP.F.O.S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0	West (4) 85
Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F 1st, P 2nd, M 3rd, U 4th, D 5th, N 6th, Y 7th, B 8th, C 9th, R 10th, S 11th, T 12th, W 13th, L 14th, G 15th, H 16th, A 17th, J 18th, K 19th, Q 20th, R 21st, S 22nd, T 23rd, U 24th, V 25th, W 26th, X 27th, Y 28th, Z 29th, AA 30th, AB 31st, AC 32nd, AD 33rd, AE 34th, AF 35th, AG 36th, AH 37th, AI 38th, AJ 39th, AK 40th, AL 41st, AM 42nd, AN 43rd, AO 44th, AP 45th, AQ 46th, AR 47th, AS 48th, AT 49th, AU 50th, AV 51st, AW 52nd, AX 53rd, AY 54th, AZ 55th, BA 56th, BB 57th, BC 58th, BD 59th, BE 60th, BF 61st, BG 62nd, BH 63rd, BI 64th, BJ 65th, BK 66th, BL 67th, BM 68th, BN 69th, BO 70th, BP 71st, BQ 72nd, BR 73rd, BS 74th, BT 75th, BU 76th, BV 77th, BW 78th, BX 79th, BY 80th, BZ 81st, CA 82nd, CB 83rd, CC 84th, CD 85th, CE 86th, CF 87th, CG 88th, CH 89th, CI 90th, CJ 91st, CK 92nd, CL 93rd, CM 94th, CN 95th, CO 96th, CP 97th, CQ 98th, CR 99th, CS 100th, CT 101st, CU 102nd, CV 103rd, CW 104th, CX 105th, CY 106th, CZ 107th, DA 108th, DB 109th, DC 110th, DD 111th, DE 112th, 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The first piece of 'family silver' is sold as one of the country's five national sports centres prepares to go private

Bisham enters an enterprising era

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE controversy over the future of Britain's five national sports centres will escalate this autumn when Bisham Abbey becomes the first to be run by a private company.

Sebastian Coe has warned that the 'family silver' is up for grabs while the Sports Council, which underwrites the centres used by Britain's elite competitors, has insisted that it will get better value for money while safeguarding the primary objective of the centres — the pursuit of excellence.

On November 1, a private company will take over Bisham, which has been extensively used by England's World Cup football team, the British hockey team which won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics, the national weightlifting squad and also the Lawn Tennis Association as a training centre.

Bisham Abbey is delightfully situated on the Thames, near Marlow, and its potential as a location for weddings, receptions and conferences is immense. However, its scope for exploitation has always been restricted because of the constraints of having to be available for the elite competitor. Few brides would welcome receptions being held to a background of Paul Gascoigne rehearsing free kicks or weightlifters dropping 500lb bar-bells.

Those in favour of competitive tendering of the five centres — the others are Crystal Palace, Lillieshall, Holme Pierrepont and Plas-y-Brenin — argue that the new management team will have the opportunity to develop the centres while maintaining the service for the national governing bodies and reducing the cost to the taxpayer of more than £3 million a year.

However Coe, and some administrators, maintain that to 'privatise' the centres implies that



Two men in a boat: David Westgarth (left), of the Sports Council, and Geoff Huckstep, of Bisham Abbey, afloat together yesterday

Britain will not treat them as a 'sporting investment'.

Coe wrote in *The Times* in March: 'I do not think you can have it both ways. Excellence in its very nature is costly, in sport as in any activity. It requires

Some administrators fear that there will be pressure from the new management teams to develop the centre commercially, and this is bound to affect the provision of facilities. Unlike local sports centres, there is no compulsion from government to have competitive

tendering of national centres. Into this controversy has stepped Geoff Huckstep, the new general manager of Bisham, who is steeped in sport and leisure development in the private sector. As assistant manager of the centre for the last

eight months, he already has a detailed knowledge of Bisham. He led the in-house team which won the contract from 22 other companies. It is his task not just to reduce the deficit on the running costs of £220,000 a year but to make

enough profit to ensure its viability as a private enterprise. Bisham is a splendidly appointed centre with 29 beds in the Abbey itself — parts of which date from the 13th century — and 60 more in the block built in 1977.

There are four indoor and ten outdoor tennis courts, three football pitches, the biggest astro-turf artificial surface in Europe, a par-three nine-hole golf course, two squash courts and a weightlifting gym and fitness suite. Huckstep stresses that, although the national governing bodies will always get priority, he can make Bisham more efficient.

He says that some of the 60 full and part-time staff will be redeployed, with the agreement of the unions. Savings can be made in overtime payments at the weekends. The staff are now paid like civil servants at a rate of one-and-a-half times on Saturday and double on Sunday. There are no such payments in the leisure world which, in future, will be at a same rate as weekdays.

He has plans to refurbish the bar and to improve the catering which, although of good nutritional value, is basic. He says: 'We have to think about the under-utilisation of the centre and its facilities. There has been a very passive approach to marketing, we must be more proactive in this area.'

David Westgarth, the Sports Council's director of national centres, said that the change-over will be the best thing that has ever happened to the centres. 'We are throwing the pieces up in the air and assembling them in a different form,' he said.

Huckstep is enthusiastic about prospects. 'How about a slogan in the area enticing people into Bisham: 'Train where the Olympians train?' he said. 'I will be able to do that now. What a seller it could be.'

SQUASH RACKETS

Two steps separate title from Davies

From COLIN MCQUILLAN

ADRIAN Davies yesterday stood just two matches away from capturing the first European closed squash championships for Wales, a feat that would appear to be his sense of humour and his staunch patriotism.

Wales had become something of a backwater in world squash since the Welsh Wizards, under the guidance of mentor, Robert Edwards, took it by the scruff of the neck last season, launching Leekes Welsh Wizards upon the national scene.

For Davies, under the guidance of the European men's field with jocularly skilful performances against Jochen Art, the German No. 2, and Fredrick Johnson, the Swedish No. 2, is against all the international trends of recent years.

The game is in such poor financial shape west of the Bristol Channel that no junior team could be sent to the world championships in West Germany earlier this month.

Yet Davies, under the guidance of the European men's field with jocularly skilful performances against Jochen Art, the German No. 2, and Fredrick Johnson, the Swedish No. 2, is against all the international trends of recent years.

England will also have a finalist for the women's championship. Songs Macfie and Caroline Metcalf play in the semi-finals. The opponent will be either Babette Hoogendoorn, of the Netherlands, or Daniela Grunz, of West Germany.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals (Wales) vs. F. Johnson (Swi), 97-80; P. Kenyon (Eng) vs. G. Williams (Eng), 84-82; S. Macfie (Wls) vs. C. Metcalf (Wls), 82-80; C. Metcalf (Wls) vs. C. Metcalf (Wls), 82-80.

MODERN PENTATHLON

First-class efforts by Britons

By MICHAEL COLEMAN

THIRTY-SIX competitors bettered 5,000 points — the yardstick of a first-class competitor — at the European modern pentathlon championships which concluded in Budapest on Sunday.

Two of them, Craig Manley and John Marshall, were British, and their strong finishing hoisted their team up to ninth out of 27.

Manley swam fourth fastest in the 300 metres with 3min 16sec, a personal best, while Marshall was second in the show jumping round with a clear round.

RESULTS: Individual (modern pentathlon): 1. F. Johnson (Swi), 1,020pts; 2. P. Kenyon (Eng), 970pts; 3. S. Macfie (Wls), 950pts; 4. C. Metcalf (Wls), 940pts; 5. G. Williams (Eng), 930pts; 6. D. Grunz (Ger), 920pts; 7. B. Hoogendoorn (Neth), 910pts; 8. J. Marshall (Wls), 900pts; 9. C. Metcalf (Wls), 890pts; 10. S. Macfie (Wls), 880pts.

LEAGUE CRICKET RESULTS

Surrey-on-Avon 1st, Surrey 1st; 153-6; Essex-on-2nd, Essex 1st; 153-6; Middlesex-on-3rd, Middlesex 1st; 153-6; Lancashire-on-4th, Lancashire 1st; 153-6; Yorkshire-on-5th, Yorkshire 1st; 153-6; Kent-on-6th, Kent 1st; 153-6; Derbyshire-on-7th, Derbyshire 1st; 153-6; Gloucestershire-on-8th, Gloucestershire 1st; 153-6; Warwickshire-on-9th, Warwickshire 1st; 153-6; Leicestershire-on-10th, Leicestershire 1st; 153-6; Northamptonshire-on-11th, Northamptonshire 1st; 153-6; Nottinghamshire-on-12th, Nottinghamshire 1st; 153-6; Durham-on-13th, Durham 1st; 153-6; Hampshire-on-14th, Hampshire 1st; 153-6; Oxfordshire-on-15th, Oxfordshire 1st; 153-6; Devon-on-16th, Devon 1st; 153-6; Somerset-on-17th, Somerset 1st; 153-6; Wiltshire-on-18th, Wiltshire 1st; 153-6; Dorset-on-19th, Dorset 1st; 153-6; Gloucestershire-on-20th, Gloucestershire 1st; 153-6; Warwickshire-on-21st, Warwickshire 1st; 153-6; Leicestershire-on-22nd, Leicestershire 1st; 153-6; Northamptonshire-on-23rd, Northamptonshire 1st; 153-6; Nottinghamshire-on-24th, Nottinghamshire 1st; 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